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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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**U.S. Naval Academy**  
midshipmen, above, work on the bridge of a Yard Patrol craft during a training exercise in Annapolis, Md., in July. About 80 Navy ROTC students participated in the exercise this summer as part of a pilot program exploring ways to expand navigation training for future naval officers. At right, the Yard Patrol boat leaves Annapolis to begin the training.

PHOTOS BY BRIAN WITTE/AP

## Making up the leeway

Ship collisions prompt rise in Naval Academy training

BY BRIAN WITTE  
*Associated Press*

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Lt. Devan Gurecki remembers feeling uneasy the first time she set foot on the bridge of a Navy ship. All she knew about warships she had learned in officer candidate school classrooms. Suddenly, she was a lookout on the bridge and giving directions.

"I literally walked on board my ship the first day, and they threw me on the bridge, and I was like, 'Wait, really? There's no qualification except for my ensign bars? This is it?' And I had never done it before, and it was kind of scary because it is a big responsibility," she said.

Now, as an instructor for the U.S. Naval Academy's Yard Patrol program, she's glad to see the military college host about 80 future naval officers from Navy ROTC. The training is designed to make students put their classroom navigation knowledge to use at sea. It's

the first time NROTC students have participated in the academy's unique, decades-old training program. Interest in the Yard Patrol program, abbreviated YP, has increased as the Navy explores how to prevent collisions at sea like the ones last year in the Pacific that led to the deaths of 17 sailors in separate incidents involving the USS Fitzgerald and the USS John S. McCain, which is named for the late senator, his father and grandfather. The college has reviewed

SEE TRAINING ON PAGE 4

WWII fighter pilot recalls Guadalcanal experiences

BY COREY DICKSTEIN  
*Stars and Stripes*

LOS ANGELES — Sam Folsom had never flown an airplane above 10,000 feet or fired the weapons on the F4F Wildcat fighter he would soon pilot into combat when he arrived on Guadalcanal in September 1942.

The battle for the strategic, jungle-covered South Pacific island was raging as Folsom and the bulk of his inexperienced fighter squadron VMF-121 joined the operation. They were tasked with finding and destroying Japanese G4M medium bombers — known as "Betty Bombers" — that had been wreaking havoc on American troops on their first major offensive in the Pacific theater during World War II.

"We were in combat immediately with no experience," Folsom, 98, recently told Stars and Stripes. "Green as can be — very few of us had any real flight experience. I guess I had 12 or 14 hours in the F4F when I got into combat."

It showed from the outset, he recalled.

Just days after reaching Guadalcanal, Folsom found himself piloting his Wildcat upward of 25,000 feet when a formation of Japanese A6M Zero fighters and Betty Bombers approached. For the first time, Folsom maneuvered his fighter into position, swooping onto the tail of an enemy plane to line up the sights for the six M2 .50-caliber machine guns mounted on his Wildcat's wings. He pulled the trigger.

"Nothing happened," Folsom recalled.

Folsom's squadron had covered its guns in lubricant before he took

SEE PILOT ON PAGE 3



Folsom

# WAR ON TERRORISM

## Group: Strike on Yemeni bus is 'apparent war crime'

By SAMY MAGDY

Associated Press

CAIRO — An airstrike by the Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels in Yemen that killed dozens of people last month is an "apparent war crime," an international rights group said Sunday.

The report came days after U.N. human rights experts said all sides in the fighting may have been responsible for committing war crimes in the 3½-year-old conflict.

The coalition backing Yemen's internationally recognized government expressed regret Saturday and pledged to hold accountable those found to be responsible for the airstrike, which hit a bus carrying children in a busy market in the northern province of Saada. At least 51 people, including 40 children, were killed, and 79 others, including 56 children, were wounded.

Human Rights Watch said the attack adds to the coalition's "already gruesome track record of killing civilians at weddings, funerals, hospitals and schools in Yemen."

The New York-based group said it



AP

In this image made from video, a child injured in an airstrike is treated at a hospital in Saada, Yemen, on Aug. 9.

spoke by phone to 14 witnesses, including nine children, who said that shortly before 8:30 a.m. on Aug. 9, a bomb fell onto the market in Dahyany, a town north of Saada in Houthi-controlled northwestern Yemen, 37 miles from the Saudi border.

The bomb landed a few meters from a bus packed with boys on an excursion organized by a mosque to visit the graves of men who had been killed in fighting, the group said. The bus was parked outside a grocery store where the driver had gone to buy water for the children, HRW said.

"I saw bodies torn into pieces, pieces of my friends ... Many of my friends died," the group quoted Ahmad Hanash, 14, as saying. He and his brothers, Has-

san, 13, and Yahia, 11, were wounded in the attack.

Bill Van Esveld, senior children's rights researcher for HRW, urged the U.S. and other countries to "immediately stop weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and support strengthening the independent U.N. inquiry into violations in Yemen, or risk being complicit in future atrocities."

The coalition said it has accepted the conclusions of its investigative body, known as the Joint Incidents Assessments Team, which found that the airstrike involved "mistakes," including failing to take measures to minimize collateral damage.

The New York-based group said it

## US servicemember killed in apparent insider attack

From staff reports

An American servicemember was killed and another wounded in an apparent insider attack in eastern Afghanistan on Monday, according to a news release from Resolute Support.

The wounded servicemember is in stable condition, according to the statement.

"The sacrifice of our service member, who volunteered for a mission to Afghanistan to protect his country, is a tragic loss for all who knew and all who will now never know him," Resolute Support and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Commanding Gen. Scott Miller said in the news release.

"Our duty now is to honor him, care for

his family and continue our mission."

This is the sixth American killed in Afghanistan this year, according to the news release.

Additional information about the incident was not released. The name of the servicemember who was killed will be released 24 hours after his relatives have been notified.

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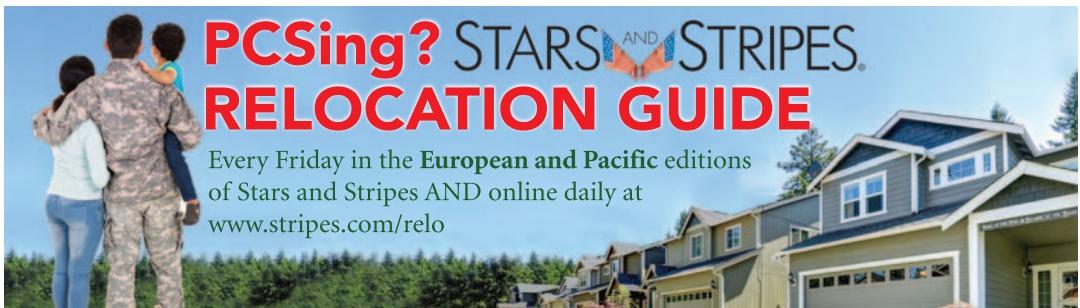
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# DOD cancels \$300M in aid for Pakistan

BY ROBERT BURNS

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon says it's taken final steps to cancel \$300 million in planned aid to Pakistan.

The move earlier this summer reflects the Trump administration's dissatisfaction with Pakistan's commitment to assisting the U.S. strategy for pressuring the Taliban, whose leaders use Pakistan as a sanctuary.

It comes at a delicate moment in the U.S.-Pakistan relationship following the election victory of Imran Khan, the new Pakistani prime minister. His foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, said Sunday in Islamabad that he's expecting a visit Wednesday by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"We will hear him and let him know the aspiration of the nation," Qureshi said.

Pentagon officials say a request was submitted to Congress this summer for authorization to use the \$300 million for other purposes. The request has not yet been approved. The move first was reported by Reuters.

A Pentagon spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Kone Faulkner, said Sunday the request to Congress was made in June or July and was "due to a lack of Pakistani decisive actions in support of" the U.S. strategy for bringing the Afghan conflict to a political solution.

The Pentagon announced in January that it was suspending aid, known as coalition support funds, to Pakistan, and subsequently, Congress canceled \$500 million in such aid. But the Pentagon did not take final steps on the \$300 million until this summer.



Khan

# MILITARY

## Pilot: At 98, Folsom tells of uncertainty that shaped his bravery at Guadalcanal

### FROM FRONT PAGE

off, but at altitude the coating froze, rendering the machine guns useless.

"I don't remember anything except thinking, 'Jesus, are these damn guns going to fire?'" Folsom said of that early combat experience. "Very frustrating. Causes bad words to come from your mouth."

It would happen twice more to Folsom — and dozens of additional times to his squadron mates — before the unit realized the cause. Folsom would leave Guadalcanal with three air-to-air kills — after downing a pair of Betty Bombers and a D3A Type 99 "Val," a carrier-based Japanese dive bomber.

To the best of his knowledge, Folsom said, he is the only living member of his fighter squadron.

In honor of his 98th birthday, Folsom took the field Aug. 14 at Los Angeles' Dodger Stadium, where the Major League Baseball team celebrated him as its Hero of the Game.

It was a moment, like so many others in his life, he said he would treasure.

### 'I didn't dream it'

Seventy-six years after fighting at Guadalcanal, Folsom admits he does not always remember clearly his days swooping through the clouds over the South Pacific in search of enemy aircraft as well as he once did. Those memories, he said, sometimes feel like dreams.

"It's like I'm sitting here telling you an awful big lie," Folsom said during an interview in the living room of his apartment in a Santa Monica, Calif., high-rise building that looks north toward Beverly Hills. "Really, it's that way. You no longer have any touch with reality something that went on 70, 80 years ago. It's gone. I must have dreamed that. But I didn't. I didn't dream it."

He regularly shares his experiences, sitting for hours recently for interviews with a neighbor, Los Angeles-area filmmaker Steven C. Barber, who plans to turn the footage into a documentary.

Barber describes his meeting Folsom as "pure chance," meeting Folsom and his wife of 68 years, Barbara Cole Folsom, 90, in their neighborhood.

"I saw he was wearing a Marine hat and asked him about it," Barber said. "Talking to him, I thought, 'I've got to share this man's story.'"

With a hint of an accent from his native Massachusetts, Folsom, nonetheless rattles off dates, locations and the numbers identifying the units he flew with in World War II, during the American occupation of Japan following that war, later in the Korean War and as an instructor and test pilot in the United States. He retired from the service in 1960 as a lieutenant colonel to take an executive position at Pan American World Airways and eventually settled into a long real estate career in New York City.

Marine Corps "through and through," as a neighbor described him, Folsom eschews accepting more help than he deems nec-



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

**Sam Folsom, 98, a Marine who flew fighters in World War II at Guadalcanal, where he shot down three Japanese aircraft, then served in the Korean War, is honored on the field at Dodger Stadium last month.**



COREY DICKSTEIN/Stars and Stripes

**Los Angeles Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner greets Folsom during his team's Aug. 14 matchup with the San Francisco Giants in which Folsom was honored as the Dodgers' Hero of the Game.**

essary. He declines the use of a cane or walker and often refuses even the aid of a friend or family member's arm.

When he took the field at Dodger Stadium, he shrugged off offerings of support as he raised his arms high over his Marine Corps ball cap-covered head, waving to the crowd of nearly 47,000, which roared its approval.

The veteran of two wars — just two years shy of reaching a century on Earth — accepted handshakes and "thank yous" from fans and from Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner and outfielder Matt Kemp as he made his way up the legendary stadium's concrete steps.

"I enjoyed every moment of it," he said, smiling broadly as he looked back down at the field where the Dodgers and San Francisco Giants were battling.

### Flying at Guadalcanal

Folsom is very likely among the last surviving men to have piloted a Marine aircraft in the Battle of Guadalcanal, a decisive victory for the Allied forces in the Pacific and widely considered a turning point in the campaign against the Japanese. His fighter squadron, a team of 40 pilots, lost 17 to enemy action in its three months on the island. Overall, Allied forces lost

7,100 men; Japan casualties were 31,000.

The fight was difficult. His squadron lived in tents near Henderson Field, the key airstrip that was built by the Japanese and completed by U.S. Navy Seabees after Marines stormed the island in the offensive which caught the enemy by surprise. Though Folsom insists the conditions could have been much worse, he nonetheless acknowledged that aviators often went without hot food and basic supplies were in heavy demand. Uniforms and other articles of clothing, he said, were so scarce that Marines would raid the quarters of their comrades who were shot down or went missing.

"We had a shortage," he said. "It wasn't heartless. Don't misunderstand me — it's just that it happened. People didn't make it. A lot of people didn't make it. It was war."

Despite the losses, Folsom's squadron would gain recognition, earning the moniker the "Foss Flying Circus." The unit's executive officer, then-Maj. Joe Foss, became renowned for his exceptional flying skills, earning 26 enemy air-to-air kills, making him the Marine Corps' top ace at the time.

For his actions at Guadalcanal, Foss was awarded the Medal of

Honor in 1943. He reached the rank of brigadier general in the South Dakota Air National Guard and served as that state's 20th governor.

"Very straightforward," Folsom said of Foss, who died in 2003 at 87. "He acted the part. He knew what he was doing. He was a great flyer; he was a great shot."

Folsom does not hold another renowned Marine Corps flyer and recipient of the Medal of Honor for his actions in the South Pacific in such regard. Folsom recalls being overwhelmed after meeting Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, the commander of VMA-214 and an ace with a penchant for drinking and fighting his own men.

"They called his squadron the Black Sheep Squadron, but it was he who was the black sheep," Folsom said. "He was in trouble all the time. He drank a lot. His squadron was highly regarded, and he was highly regarded as a pilot, but he was not the image of a Marine."

For Folsom, more than the heroic moments — the air-to-air kills, the action that earned him a Distinguished Flying Cross — it was the close calls at Guadalcanal that largely stuck out in his mind.

Recalled at least three incidents in which his Wildcat was shot up badly by Japanese Zeros, the enemy fighters that were both faster and more agile than his F4F.

In one such incident, Folsom was chased by three or four enemy fighters. He maneuvered in and out of cloud cover hoping unsuccessfully to lose his pursuers.

Then the bullets started to fly.

Dozens of them pierced the metal shell of his Wildcat. One struck him in the leg, another hit the plane's throttle level, separating it from the panel connecting it to the flight deck.

"They shot the hell out of me," Folsom said.

Somehow he managed to land his fighter, leaving him shaken. "I was lucky. Don't misunderstand me — it's not a question of bravery, of anything like that. You just automatically say, 'I've got to land the damn airplane. I'm going to do it.' And then you do it. That's all."

He recalls the successes just



Courtesy of Sam Folsom

**Folsom poses with his F4F Wildcat with Popeye art in 1942 in Samoa after he left the Battle of Guadalcanal.**

as matter-of-factly. Of his first air-to-air kills, in which he dove from some 20,000 feet to near the ocean's surface and shot down two Betty Bombers within minutes of each other, he does not recall any fanfare.

"It's nothing; you just do it," he said. "All this balloon in movies about people torturing themselves, and wondering should I shoot this guy and all that — you automatically, at that point in life, shoot because that know that guy is going to shoot at you."

"I don't really remember any emotion. Truthfully, I don't. I was there, fired the guns. It happened."

### The formative years

He was unaware of it at the time, but his years in the Marine Corps would shape the rest of his life.

In reality, Folsom never intended to join the Marines.

He was commissioned a Navy ensign upon graduation from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in 1940, but was denied a request to enter flight training — the entire reason he had wanted to join the military.

"I always wanted to fly," he said. "I don't know why. It was just something I always wanted to do since I was a kid. Maybe it was movies or maybe it was (Charles) Lindbergh."

He elected to vacate his commission, eventually choosing to join the Marines, who agreed to send him into aviation training. He would spend the next 17 years on active duty.

"You don't give it too much thought at the time, but in retrospect the Marine Corps meant a lot to me," he said. "It gave me experiences I never could have gotten anywhere else."

At 98, Folsom said he would not trade his experiences for anyone else's life — including those close calls over Guadalcanal. His military experience, he added, shaped the rest of his life.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the Marine Corps, and I loved flying," he said. "It's been a really good life, and I have the Marine Corps, in part, to thank for much of that."

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## MILITARY

# Sailor recruits for US Navy on Reddit

By BROCK VERGAKIS

*The Virginian-Pilot*

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — In a hotel lobby at Town Center in Virginia Beach, Michael Ivey set up his personal laptop computer and did something no other American sailor has done before.

He logged onto the news and discussion website Reddit and took over the Navy's official recruiting account to take part in an "AMA," which stands for Ask Me Anything. But his job isn't as a recruiter or a public affairs officer who is expected to put forward the best face possible for the Navy.

He's an equipment operator — a Navy Seabee — stationed at Little Creek whose job it is to make sure sailors in the rest of the fleet who are deployed have a roof over their heads, running water and communication lines.

Without anyone looking over his shoulder or approving his posts, Ivey answered questions in real time for two hours about his background, about life in the Navy and even things he dislikes about the service. He didn't try to duck a question about his views on allowing transgender sailors to serve.

"My entire intent of this was not to be the voice of the Navy but to be the voice of Michael," Ivey said. "If you cherry-pick questions that you want to answer, then it becomes very obvious that you're trying to push a narrative. I wanted this to be as organic as possible. So with that, you have to answer the hard questions, you have to answer the silly questions: whether I like pineapple pizza or how I feel about the transgender ban."

The unusual session was part of a broader shift in the Navy's recruiting strategy that focuses less on reaching young people through television advertisements and more on connecting with them online through the

authentic stories of sailors in the fleet. The Navy has gone from spending about 70 percent of its \$40 million media budget on broadcast in the 2017 fiscal year to 45 percent in the 2018 fiscal year. The Navy plans to spend 70 percent of its media budget on digital in the 2019 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1.

"It is important to note that the current marketing campaign is the most cost-efficient in Navy history. That is because the majority of the paid advertising is appearing on the digital and social media platforms that are most popular with the Centennial generation," said Lt. Cmdr. Jessica L. McNulty, a Navy Recruiting Command spokeswoman.

"This media strategy shift is helping ensure that the Navy is reaching the right audience, at the right time, on the most appropriate media platforms to maximize impact. And the increased emphasis on digital and social media marketing is enabling the Navy to more precisely measure the campaign's effectiveness and then adjust accordingly."

The Navy's Memphis, Tenn.-based civilian marketing group, the Navy Partnership, calls the shift a complete "digital transformation" and is relying on sailors like Ivey to play starring roles.

lowed yielded no clues.

There was only blackness.

Barely a week ago, and more than a half-century after Mills was listed as missing in action, the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency — charged with searching for and identifying the remains of American servicemen lost during wartime — officially determined that the remains of Navy Cmdr. Mills had been positively identified after being found in shallow water off the coast of Vietnam.

The news came like a bombshell to the family. Relief. Joy. Wonder. And yet, sober knowledge that Jimmy, as his friends and family still call him, did indeed lose his life on that dark Vietnamese night.



BRIAN WITTE/AP

**U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen work on the bridge of a Yard Patrol boat during a training exercise in Annapolis, Md., at the end of July.**

## Training: Students taught basic 'rules of the road' at sea, how to maneuver around ships

### FROM FRONT PAGE

its seamanship and navigation training curriculum, including the YP program, as part of a larger Navy review. Vice Adm. Ted Carter, the academy's superintendent, told the academy's board that the motor skills midshipmen learn in the ships, also known as YPs, are valuable.

"If we can get the other community to get even a basic touchstone of some YP time, it will make a difference," Carter, referring to Navy ROTC, told the board, which includes members of Congress and is similar to a board of trustees at a civilian college.

The newest class of YP vessels are 119 feet long and about 27 feet wide. Slow and lumbering in the water, they're rated for about 12 knots, or about 14 mph. They resemble ocean-going research vessels with about a 30-person crew. The vessels have equipment comparable to that used on Navy ships, including electronic navigation and an automatic radar plotting aid.

In addition to training trips into the nearby Chesapeake Bay, they take trips at sea for about 2½ weeks during summer up the East Coast, including stops in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Newport, R.I., or Boston.

Lt. Carlton Smith, who graduated from the academy in 2012 and is now a YP trainer, said the program enables students to start building muscle memory needed to drive a ship.

"While it's not 100 percent identical to what to expect on a warship, it's still extremely close," Smith said.

The YP program teaches students basic "rules of the road"

**'While it's not 100 percent identical to what to expect on a warship, it's still extremely close.'**

Lt. Carlton Smith

graduate of U.S. Naval Academy's Yard Patrol program

at sea and how to maneuver around other ships. Students also stand watch, conduct drills and learn about the routine of being aboard. Students work as a team to navigate the ship, plotting positions and communicating with other vessels in the area. They also work on adjusting for mechanical problems.

### First-hand experience

Colin Welborn, an ROTC student at Virginia Tech, participated in one of the training trips this summer. He said the training was valuable because students get first-hand experience instead of simply observing other people.

"Here, we are the bridge. We are the pilot house, and so we are being treated right now as we're junior officers," Welborn said as the ship cruised in the Chesapeake Bay. "Even though we're being guided, there's oversight, we are the functioning team on a ship, so it's a whole different domain."

Cmdr. Chad Graham, chairman of the academy's seamanship and navigation department, said the academy plans to host another 80 NROTC students next summer. He also said the program could be expanded to accommodate more students in the future if the Navy makes the investment. That would enable the academy to bring in double to triple the number of NROTC

students who came to Annapolis this year and could cover all of NROTC's surface warfare candidates, Graham said.

Commissioned Navy officers come from three main sources: the academy, Navy ROTC and officer candidate school. The academy commissioned about 1,073 officers last year, the academy said. Navy ROTC commissioned 1,049 officers, and officer candidate school commissioned 1,103, according to the Naval Service Training Command.

While newly commissioned Navy officers get training elsewhere, it's either by simulation or on an actual ship, Graham said. The academy's YPs are the only training-craft program in the Navy. Every midshipman at the academy gets at least some YP training. Students who decide to enter surface warfare receive added training.

While simulators are effective teaching tools, Graham said, they just aren't the real thing.

"I'm just in a position where I have the luxury of having these Yard Patrol craft, and I know there's a lot more feedback that comes from hearing that anchor scrape along the seawall and where your positioning is, compared to being in the trainer in here and the fake noise coming out of the simulator," Graham said.

## Remains of naval aviator ID'd after 52 years of uncertainty

*The Bakersfield Californian*

The handsome young aviator had all the promise in the world.

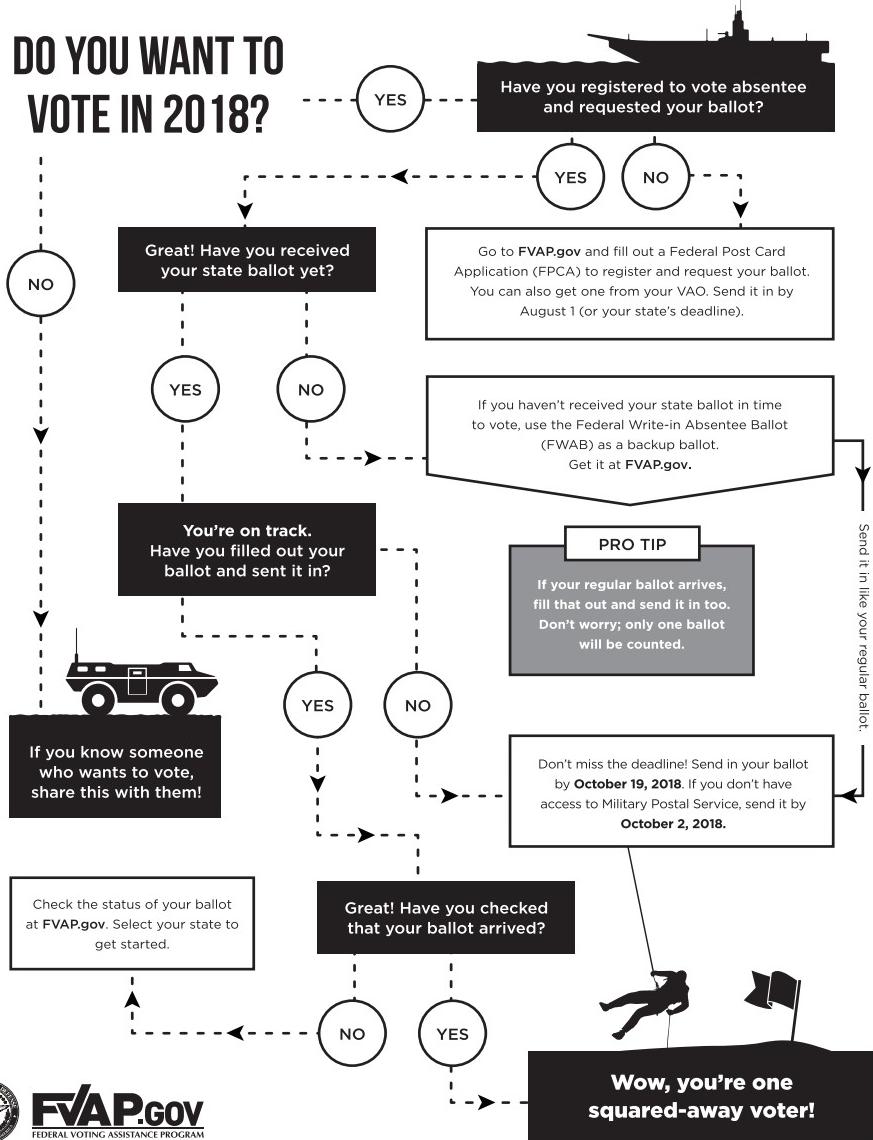
James B. Mills, a Bakersfield High and University of California, Berkeley, graduate-turned-U.S. Navy radar intercept operator, was barely 26 when he and pilot James Bauder lifted off the deck of the USS Coral Sea on an armed reconnaissance mission over what was then known as North Vietnam. It was past midnight on Sept. 21, 1966, when their F-4B Phantom fighter jet disappeared from radar.

The crew's wingman never saw the plane go down. No distress call was heard. No missiles or anti-aircraft artillery were observed, and no explosions were seen. The extensive aerial searches that fol-

# So you're stationed overseas and it's an election year...

This handy flowchart on absentee voting lays it all out.

## DO YOU WANT TO VOTE IN 2018?



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## NATION

# Pollution rules rollback will hit coal country hard

BY ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
AND JOHN RABY  
Associated Press

GRANT TOWN, W.Va. — It's coal people like miner Steve Knotts, 62, who make West Virginia Trump Country.

So it was no surprise that President Donald Trump picked the state to announce his plan to roll back Obama-era pollution controls on coal-fired power plants.

Trump left one thing out of his remarks, though: Northern West Virginia coal country will be ground zero for increased deaths and illnesses from the rollback on regulation of harmful emissions from the nation's coal power plants.

An analysis done by his own Environmental Protection Agency concludes that the plan would lead to a greater number of people here dying prematurely, and suffering health problems that they otherwise would not have, than elsewhere in the country, when compared with health impacts of the Obama plan.

Knotts, a coal miner for 35 years, wasn't fazed when he heard that warning, a couple of days after Trump's West Virginia rally. He said the last thing people in coal country want is the government slapping down more controls

on coal — and the air here in the remote West Virginia mountains seems fine to him.

"People here have had it with other people telling us what we need. We know what we need. We need a job," Knotts said at lunch hour at a Circle K in a tiny town between two coal mines, and 9 miles down the road from a coal power plant, the Grant Town plant.

Clean-air controls since the 1980s largely turned off the columns of black soot that used to rise from coal smokestacks. The regulations slashed the national death rates from coal-fired power plants substantially.

These days pollutants rise from smoke stacks as gases, before solidifying into fine particles — still invisible — small enough to pass through lungs and into bloodstream.

An EPA analysis said those pollutants would increase under Trump's plan, when compared with what would happen under the Obama plan. And that, it says, would lead to thousands more heart attacks, asthma problems and other illnesses that would not have occurred.

Nationally, the EPA said, 350 to 1,500 more people would die each year under Trump's plan. But it's the northern two-thirds of West



American Electric Power's John Amos coal-fired plant in Winfield, W.Va., is seen from the town of Poca across the Kanawha River. President Donald Trump picked West Virginia as the place where he announced rolling back pollution rules for coal-fired power plants.

JOHN RABY/AP

Virginia and the neighboring part of Pennsylvania that would be hit hardest, by far, according to Trump's EPA.

Trump's rollback would kill an extra 1.4 to 2.4 people a year for every 100,000 people in those hardest-hit areas, compared with under the Obama plan, according to the EPA analysis. For West Virginia's 1.8 million people, that would be equal to at least a couple of dozen additional deaths a year.

Trump's acting EPA administrator, Andrew Wheeler, a former coal lobbyist whose grandfather worked in the coal camps of West Virginia, headed to coal states this week and last to promote Trump's

rollback. The federal government's retreat on regulating pollution from coal power plants was "good news," Wheeler told crowds there.

In Washington, EPA spokesman Michael Abboud said Trump's plan still would result in "dramatic reductions" in emissions, deaths and illness compared with the status quo instead of the Obama plan. Obama's Clean Power Plan targeted climate-changing carbon dioxide, but since coal is the largest source of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels, the Obama plan would have curbed other harmful emissions from the coal-fired power plants as well.

About 160 miles to the south of

Grant Town, near the state capital of Charleston, shop owner Doris Keller figures that if Trump thinks something's for the best, that's good enough for her.

"I just know this. I like Donald Trump and I think that he's doing the right thing," said Keller, who turned out to support Trump on Aug. 21 when he promoted his rollback proposal. She lives 5 miles from the 2,900-megawatt John Amos coal-fired power plant.

Trump's Affordable Clean Energy program would dismantle President Barack Obama's 2015 Clean Power Plan, which has been caught up in court battles without yet being implemented.

## Deputy shoots man who fired gun at racetrack over sold-out concert

Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A man who was told no more tickets were available for an Ice Cube concert at a racetrack was shot by a sheriff's deputy Sunday night after he fired his gun into a crowd, the San Diego Sheriff's Department said.

The man, whose name and age were not given, came to the ticket window at the Del Mar Fairgrounds about 6:40 p.m., the department said in a news release.

Shortly after he was told there were no more tickets, an argument ensued and nearby depu-

ties came to the scene. The man pulled out a silver-plated semi-automatic handgun and fired several shots into an area crowded with people, the department said. The deputies shot him.

The man was taken to Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, the department said. His condition was not released.

It appears no one else was injured, the department said.

A video of the shooting that was posted on Twitter records the sounds of several shots being fired before a man falls to the

ground. Two deputies appear to holster their guns as one shouts at a gathering crowd to "get back, get back, get back."

In a broadcast of the track's final race of the day that was posted on Twitter, an announcer can be heard saying, "There's gunfire at the track," as horses move along the turf course, the Union-Tribune reported.

The Del Mar Racetrack later tweeted that the "situation has been contained" and said the concert "is moving forward as planned."

## 10 hurt in gunfire exchange in California

Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — Police in Southern California said 10 people were shot and wounded after a group playing a game at an apartment complex exchanged gunfire.

San Bernardino police Capt. Rich Lawhead said early Monday three of the wounded were in critical condition after the shootout Sunday night.

Lawhead told the San Bernardo-

no Sun the shooting started when someone showed up and opened fire on a group of people playing a game, possibly dice. He said some of those at the game fired back.

Lawhead said people used handguns and rifles but that no firearms had been recovered and that no arrests had been made early Monday.

## Tropical Storm Gordon takes aim at Gulf Coast

Associated Press

Tropical Storm Gordon lashed South Florida with heavy rains and high winds on Monday, forcing holiday beachgoers to drier ground.

Weather forecasters said the storm could strengthen to near-hurricane force by the time it hits the central U.S. Gulf Coast.

Gordon formed into a tropical storm near the Florida Keys early Monday as it moved west-northwest at 16 mph. The storm was expected to reach coastal Mississippi and Louisiana by late Tuesday and move inland over the lower Mississippi Valley on Wednesday.

The National Hurricane Center in Miami said that the storm was centered 60 miles west-northwest of Key Largo and 50 miles southeast of Marco Island at midday Monday.

Miami Beach Police said via Twitter that the Labor Day holiday was "NOT a beach day," with rough surf and potential rip currents. Red flags flew over Pen-

sacola-area beaches in Florida's Panhandle, where swimming and wading in the Gulf of Mexico was prohibited.

A hurricane watch — meaning that hurricane conditions are possible — was put into effect for the area stretching from the mouth of the Pearl River in Mississippi to the Alabama-Florida border.

The Miami-based center said the storm was also expected to bring "life-threatening" storm surge to portions of the central Gulf Coast.

A storm surge warning was issued for the area stretching from Shell Beach, La., to the Mississippi-Alabama state line. The warning means there is danger of life-threatening inundation. The region could see rising waters of 3 to 5 feet.

Separately, Tropical Storm Florence continues to hold steady over the eastern Atlantic. Forecasters say little change in strength is expected in coming days and no coastal watches or warnings are in effect.

# NATION



Clockwise from above: Flames from the Ferguson fire burn down a hillside in unincorporated Mariposa County, Calif., near Yosemite National Park in mid-June; the Howe Ridge fire burns at Glacier National Park, Mont., last month; and standing rainwater pools in January where a Fountaingrove neighborhood home once stood in Santa Rosa, Calif.

# Driven by climate change, fire reshapes West

By MATTHEW BROWN  
*Associated Press*

**BILLINGS, Mont.** — Wildfires in the U.S. have charred more than 10,000 square miles so far this year, an area larger than the state of Maryland, with large fires still burning in every Western state, including many that are not fully contained.

Whether sparked by lightning or humans, fire has long been a force shaping the landscape of the U.S. West.

Hot, dry winds can whip flames into firestorms that leave behind charred wastelands prone to erosion and mudslides. Other fires clear out underbrush, open the forest floor to sunlight and stimulate growth.

Government agencies in recent decades effectively upended that cycle of destruction and rebirth. Fire-suppression policies allowed fuels to build up in many Western forests, making them more susceptible to major fires.

Those influences are magnified as development creeps ever deeper into forests and climate change brings hotter temperatures. Recent images of subdivisions ablaze thrust the power and ecological role of wildfires into the spotlight.

Here's a look at the environmental effects of wildfires.

## Smoke and ruin

Most immediately, fire brings destruction.

Temperatures from extreme fires can top 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit — hot enough to kill all plant life, incinerate seeds hidden beneath the surface and bake the soil until it becomes impervious to rain.

The lifeless landscape becomes prone to severe erosion, fouling streams and rivers with silt that kills fish and other aquatic life. Torrents of muddy debris following fires last year in Southern California killed 21 people and destroyed 129 homes.

U.S. Geological Survey scientists say the problem is getting worse as the area burned annually by wildfires increases. A study last year concluded sediment from erosion following fires would more than double by 2050 for about a third of western watersheds.

Smoke from this summer's Western wildfires — a potential health hazard for at-risk individuals — prompted the closure of Yosemite National Park for more than two weeks and drifted to the East Coast, according to NASA. Recent research says it also affects climate change as small particles spiral into the upper atmosphere and interfere with the sun's rays.

## Climate questions

Scientists broadly agree wildfires are getting bigger in North America and other parts of the world as the climate warms. But still emerging is how that change will alter the natural progression of fire and regrowth.

The time interval between wildfires in some locations is getting shorter, even as there's less moisture to help trees regrow. That means some forests burn, then never grow back, converting instead into shrub land more adapted to frequent fire, said Jonathan Thompson, a senior ecologist at Harvard University.

"They get stuck in this trap of repeat-

ed, high-severity fire," Thompson said. "Through time we'll see the California shrub land shifting north."

Similar shifts are being observed in Colorado, Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park and Glacier National Park in Montana, he said.

The relationship between climate and fire cuts both ways. A longer fire season and bigger fires in the boreal forest of Alaska and Canada are burning not just trees but also tundra and coniferous timber in areas, which hold roughly a third of the Earth's terrestrial carbon, said David Peterson, a former U.S. Forest Service research scientist.

The carbon enters the atmosphere and contributes to higher temperatures, leading to bigger fires that release yet more carbon.

## Bird in the balance

Life and property still top the list of priorities for firefighters, but in recent years, another asset has been deemed worth extra protection in many Western states: a chick-en-sized bird known as the greater sage grouse.

Fires burned an estimated 3,240 square miles of the bird's sage bush habitat in 2017 and have burned almost 2,400 square miles so far in 2018.

When sage brush burns, it's often replaced with a plant from Europe called cheatgrass, which crowds out native plants and is more prone to burning.

That's challenging government efforts to keep greater sage grouse off the endangered species list, which could restrict economic development.

Areas considered crucial to the bird's

survival now get extra attention. A military-type helicopter is under government contract to deploy quick-reaction teams to snuff out sage brush fires in portions of Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Oregon.

## Regeneration

A turning point in public understanding of the ecological importance of fire came in 1988, when 1,240 square miles of Yellowstone National Park burned.

The devastation, punctuated by images of wildlife fleeing flames, fed into the perception of wildfires as a menace to be battled.

The events drew criticism of the park's "let it burn" policy. Officials didn't immediately squelch lightning-caused fires that June because they did not pose an immediate threat to life or property, but they eventually ended up deploying 10,000 firefighters.

By that fall, seedlings already were emerging in some burned-out areas. Park biologist Roy Renkin recalls a visitor reacting with surprise a decade later when he told her a thick stand of young trees emerging from a burned area had come back on their own.

Lodgepole pines are commonly cited as an example of forest resiliency. The fire's heat releases seeds from the pine's cones.

Several species of woodpeckers thrive on insects attracted to fire-killed trees. A plant called fireweed is specially adapted to take root in fire-damaged soils, multiplying rapidly and forming carpets of pink petals against a blackened backdrop.

"It's isn't all death and destruction," Renkin said. "These forests have evolved with fire."

## NATION

# Big-ticket to-do list



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**Confirming a Supreme Court justice and passing a budget to keep the government operating top the agenda as Congress returns to work on Tuesday.**

## Congress' busy agenda includes weighing Kavanaugh nomination, paying bills

By KEVIN FREKING  
AND MATTHEW DALY  
*Associated Press*

**WASHINGTON** — Keep the government running and confirm Brett Kavanaugh as the next Supreme Court justice. Those are the big-ticket items that Republican leaders in Congress hope to accomplish as lawmakers look to wrap up their work and head home to campaign for the November elections.

Democrats want to keep the government open, but they also are fighting to derail the nomination of Kavanaugh, the second Supreme Court nominee from President Donald Trump.

Other items on the agenda when Congress returns Tuesday include passing a farm bill, renewing federal aviation programs and grilling social media executives about foreign interference in their operations and whether they are biased against conservatives, as Trump has alleged.

Republican leaders are expected at the White House on Tuesday for a meeting with Trump on their goals.

Here's a look at what's coming up on Capitol Hill:

■ **Replacing Justice Kennedy.** The Senate Judiciary Committee begins confirmation hearings for Kavanaugh, a federal appeals court judge, on Tuesday with his introduction and opening statements from lawmakers. Questioning of the nominee will begin the next day, and testimony from the American Bar Association, outside legal experts and those who know him best will follow.

Trump nominated Kavanaugh to succeed Justice Anthony Kennedy, consid-



Kavanaugh

ered the swing vote on some of the most important issues decided in recent years. Democrats are worried that Kavanaugh's confirmation will cement a right-leaning court for many years to come. They contend his elevation could lead the court to restrict a woman's right to choose an abortion, equal rights for gays and lesbians and environmental protections.

With liberal advocacy groups adamantly opposed to Kavanaugh and Democrats wanting to fix up their base for the coming election, Senate questioning will be aggressive and opening statements forceful. But Republicans, with their 50-49 majority, have the edge.

■ **Keeping the government open.** Lawmakers face a Sept. 30 deadline to pass spending bills to keep the government open.

The House and the Senate both have approved a series of measures, but have not agreed on a unified bill that could go the president's desk.

Lawmakers hope to approve at least three compromise bills that fund a large portion of the government, including the military and most civilian agencies, before the new budget year begins Oct. 1.

In a shift from previous years, the Senate has approved nine of 12 mandatory spending bills, enough to fund nearly 90 percent of the government. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., called that "an important step forward" and evidence that "Congress is in good hands" under GOP majorities in the House and the Senate.

Still, lawmakers from both parties remain wary of a government shutdown, which Trump has threatened unless he gets a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. Democrats have resisted Trump's plan to spend \$25 billion to fulfill that key Trump campaign promise.

A shutdown just weeks before the November elections would be the third under unified Republican control of Washington, following stoppages in January and February. That prospect has provoked widespread anxiety among Republicans facing tough re-election fights.

Trump has called a possible shutdown "a great political thing, because people want border security."

■ **Negotiating a farm bill.** Congress has until Sept. 30 to reauthorize farm programs that, among other things, provide payments to farmers when prices for major crops decline. Pleas from farm groups for action come as they deal with the Trump administration's decision to use tariffs as leverage in trade disputes; major trading partners have responded with tariffs of their own on farm products from the U.S.

The farm bill also would extend food aid for low-income Americans. House-passed legislation significantly tightens existing work requirements for aid recipients, an approach Trump has said he hopes makes it into the final bill. But the Senate version takes a more bipartisan approach, which makes only modest changes to the food stamps, formally known as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Led by Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., House Republicans have dug in on retaining work requirements in the bill. The two sides will begin hammering out a solution Wednesday, when lawmakers start negotiating a compromise that can pass both chambers.

■ **Social media executives in the hot seat.** Executives at some of the biggest social media companies will be on the hot seat in separate hearings this month.

Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Facebook's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, are scheduled to testify Wednesday

before the Senate intelligence committee. Lawmakers want to know how their companies are dealing with efforts by Russia and other countries to influence social media platforms and to interfere in U.S. elections.

Dorsey is set to testify later Wednesday before the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which wants to know how Twitter monitors and polices content. Complainants complain that Twitter is limiting their reach on the web, a cry that Trump has taken up.

The first hearing is part of the Senate committee's Russia investigation. The committee is expected to issue additional reports in the coming weeks, including one on Russia's interference on social media.

The committee so far has delayed a report on whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russia; that report could come by the end of the year.

■ **Federal Aviation Administration.** Congress also has until Sept. 30 to extend FAA programs that fund airport and air traffic system improvements.

If the FAA's authority were to expire, it still would continue to operate the nation's air traffic system and controllers would work without pay. But some of the agency's other work would come to a halt.

The House passed a bill extending FAA activities for five years in April, but action stalled in the Senate amid a dispute over rules for meals and rest breaks for truckers. The chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said lawmakers were pursuing "all potential avenues to get the bill on the president's desk" and signed into law before the deadline.

The Senate bill includes new consumer protections, authority for developing new drone policies, safety enhancements and funding for aviation infrastructure.

## NATION

# Trump sees mixing trade and foreign policy as good politics

BY KEN THOMAS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When President Donald Trump pulled the plug on an upcoming trip to North Korea by his secretary of state, he pointed **ANALYSIS** a finger of blame at China and the global superpower's trade practices.

In his recent trade breakthrough with Mexico, Trump praised the country's outgoing president for his help on border security and agriculture.

Both developments offered fresh evidence of how Trump has made trade policy the connective tissue that ties together different elements of his "America First" foreign policy and syncs them with his political strategy for the 2020 presidential election.

Trump's 2016 triumph was paved in part by his support among blue-collar voters in Midwestern manufacturing states that narrowly supported him over Democrat Hillary Clinton, including Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

His aggressive trade tactics,

epitomized by tariffs and standoffs with longtime economic partners and allies, are aimed at reversing what he has long viewed as unfair trade deals while maintaining support among largely white, working-class voters who have been hurt by the loss of manufacturing jobs.

"Trump understands that economic policy is foreign policy and vice versa," said Stephen Moore, a former Trump campaign adviser and visiting fellow at The Heritage Foundation. "The most important element of foreign policy is to not just keep the world safe, but to also promote America's economic interest. That's what Trump does — this is America First."

It's also good politics, in Trump's view.

"It's a populist position. But it's also a popular position with a lot of Americans," Moore said.

As he puts a high premium on trade gains, Trump is intertwining the issue with a host of top foreign policy concerns.

Trump, asked by reporters last week about North Korea's living up to its commitments to denuclearize, said "part of the North

Korean problem is caused by our trade disputes with China," pointing to the U.S. trade imbalance with China.

Trade has been a common refrain at the president's rallies, where he has vowed to pursue "fair and reciprocal trade."

Trump's second year as president has been marked by a number of trade disputes with traditional U.S. allies and global rivals alike, an approach cemented by his tweet that "trade wars are good."

He imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports in March, prompting retaliation from the European Union and other American allies. Later in the month, Trump announced tariffs on China to combat what he called the theft of U.S. technology from a wide range of goods and services.

China struck back with its own sanctions on a variety of U.S. products, including Midwest farm-produced soybeans in a way to hit hard against the president's base of voters. The two sides have clashed during the spring and summer, raising the stakes in their trade fight.



EVAN VUCCI/AP

**President Donald Trump listens during a phone call Aug. 27 with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto about a trade agreement between the U.S. and Mexico.**

In late July, Trump and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker reached a temporary deal at the White House to avert tariffs on automobile imports and a ramping up of their trade dispute — although the threat still remains.

After a breakthrough with Mexico, Trump's team has been engaged in talks with Canada aimed at creating a new version of the 24-year-old North American Free Trade Agreement.

While previous administrations often have used a carrot-and-stick approach to trade as a way to forge agreements, before Trump's arrival, trade deals had emphasized multilateral and bilateral deals aimed at maintaining U.S. leadership around the world, promoting American values and improving human rights.

This administration, by contrast, "is leveraging foreign policy tools to achieve its trade goals," said Lori Wallach, director of Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch.

Critics say Trump's insistence on trade concessions could hamper his ability to move forward in other areas.

On North Korea, for example, Trump has sought to turn his meeting with Kim Jong Un into a vivid example of how his unconventional style can bring longstanding U.S. adversaries to the bargaining table.

But by raising China's trade practices as essential to any progress to ensuring North Korea gets rid of its nuclear weapons, Trump runs the risk of getting bogged down in both areas — and having little to show for it.



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# WORLD

# Many relics lost in Rio museum fire

BY PETER PRENGAMAN  
Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — A huge fire engulfed Brazil's 200-year-old National Museum in Rio de Janeiro, lighting up the night sky with towering flames as firefighters and museum workers raced to save historical relics from the blaze.

The esteemed museum, which houses artifacts from Egypt, Greco-Roman art and some of the first fossils found in Brazil, was closed to the public at the time of the fire, which broke out at 7:30 p.m. Sunday local time, it said in a statement.

There were no reports of injuries, the museum said, and it wasn't immediately clear how the fire began.

Robadey, a spokesman for the fire department, said 80 firefighters were battling the blaze and that by midnight local time it was "just about under control" and should be out within a few hours.

President Michel Temer called it "a sad day for all Brazilians."

"Two hundred years of knowledge have been lost," Temer said in a

statement.

According to its website, the museum has a vast collection related to the history of Brazil and other countries, and many of its collections came from members of Brazil's royal family.

Robadey said firefighters got off to a slow start fighting the blaze because the two fire hydrants closest to the museum were not functioning. Instead, trucks had to be sent to get water from a nearby lake.

But he added that some of the museum's pieces had been spared.

"We were able to remove a lot of things from inside with the help of workers of the museum," Robadey told Globo News.

Connected to the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, the museum has expositions that include anthropology, archaeology and paleontology, among others.

The vice director of the museum, Luiz Fernando Dias Duarte, told Globo news the museum suffered chronic underfunding.

Just over a month before national elections, even before the flames were put out, the fire was leading to recriminations about dilapidated infrastructure



LEO CORREA/AP

**Flames engulf the 200-year-old National Museum of Brazil in Rio de Janeiro on Sunday.**

and budget deficits in the city that hosted the 2016 Summer Olympics.

"Unfortunately, given the financial straits of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro and all the other public universities the last three years, this was a tragedy that could be seen coming," Marina Silva, one of the leading presidential candidates, tweeted.

On Instagram, Rio Mayor Mar-

celo Crivella called on the country to rebuild.

"It's a national obligation to reconstruct it from the ashes, recompose every eternal detail of the paintings and photos. Even if they are not original, they continue to be a reminder of the royal family that gave us independence, the (Portuguese) empire and the first constitution and national unity," he said.

## Germany urges protesters to shun neo-Nazis

Associated Press

CHEMNITZ, Germany — Germany's government Monday urged those aggrieved by the suspected killing of a man by migrants in Chemnitz to distance themselves from far-right extremists who have participated in violent, xenophobic protest marches in the eastern city over the past week.

The fatal stabbing of carpenter Daniel Hillig, 35, in the eastern city Aug. 26 sparked a series of rallies, some of which erupted into violence. Protesters looked on as neo-Nazis performed the stiff-armed "Hitler salute," chanted "foreigners out" and harassed journalists covering the

demonstrations.

"If one doesn't think this way it would be good to draw a clear line and distance oneself from those who are doing that," said government spokesman Steffen Seibert.

The tension that has built up over the past week in Chemnitz reflects the growing polarization over Germany's ongoing efforts to come to terms with an influx of more than 1 million refugees and migrants to the country since 2015.

Authorities said a 22-year-old Iraqi and a 23-year-old Syrian were arrested on suspicion of manslaughter in the Chemnitz killing.

"If their guilt is proven then they will experience the full force

of our laws," Seibert said.

Thousands of people were expected to attend a free, open-air concert in the city Monday intended to send a signal against hatred and anti-migrant sentiment.

The concert, which is being promoted under the *#WeAreMore* hashtag, is part of an effort by German civil society to position itself against the growing far-right movement in parts of Germany.

Former Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel tweeted on Monday that "the far-right terror in Chemnitz is not a Saxon problem, it's a German one."

He harshly criticized the political establishment for being too passive when it comes to fighting

far-right groups in Germany and asked them to make a stronger showing in places with simmering discontent and anti-migrant sentiment.

Also on Monday, Hillig's widow spoke out for the first time, saying that, "Daniel would have never wanted" the protests triggered by his killing.

"Daniel was neither left nor right," the widow, identified only as Bianca T., told Bild, adding that she was shocked by how the far right was exploiting his death. "I looked at the events on Saturday night — this was not about Daniel at all."

"All we want to do right now is mourn him in peace," she said.

## Netanyahu welcomes Philippines' Duterte to Israel

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu extended a warm welcome to Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday at the start of an official visit despite being criticized for embracing a leader accused of human rights abuses in his deadly drug crackdown.

The two leaders oversaw the signing of three agreements in trade, science and care-giving. Netanyahu highlighted the countries' long friendship, how the Philippines took in Jewish refugees after World War II and was the only Asian nation to vote for Israel's estab-

lishment. He noted how in recent years Filipino health aides have assisted the elderly in Israel, including Netanyahu's own father.

"We remember our friends, and that friendship has blossomed over the years and especially over the last few years," Netanyahu told Duterte. "There has been a remarkable phenomenon in Israel where thousands and thousands of families have taken heart from the support given by Filipino caretakers for the elderly."

Duterte thanked Israel for hosting some 28,000 Filipino workers and for assisting his country in its times of need.

The visit is the first by a Philippine presi-

dent to Israel since the countries established diplomatic relations in 1957. Netanyahu has worked to cultivate allies in Asia, Africa and Latin America, where many countries have historically shunned Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians.

But Netanyahu has come under fire for embracing Duterte, whose forces are accused of killing thousands in anti-drug raids since he took office in 2016. Duterte drew outrage that year when he compared his anti-drug campaign to the Holocaust, and himself to Hitler, saying he would be "happy to slaughter" 3 million addicts. He later apologized.

## 400 prisoners escape amid Tripoli clashes

BENGHAZI, Libya — Some 400 prisoners escaped from a jail in the Libyan capital, authorities said Sunday, as fighting between rival militias that has killed dozens of people forced the U.N.-backed government to declare a state of emergency in and around Tripoli.

The inmates overwhelmed guards and forced open the doors of the Ain Zara prison after riots broke out there, police said in a statement posted on Facebook. The prisoners included many supporters of the late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi who had been found guilty of killings during the 2011 uprising that ended his rule and plunged the country into chaos.

The fighting in Tripoli erupted last week when the Seventh Brigade, militias which hail from Tarhouna, a town about 40 miles south of Tripoli, attacked southern neighborhoods of the capital.

## Ferry strike strands many on Greek islands

ATHENS, Greece — Greek ferry crews on Monday decided to extend for at least one more day a strike that has left tens of thousands of travelers stranded on the country's popular island destinations.

The main PNO crew union said that ferries will remain confined to port until 6 a.m. Wednesday. The union said it proposed to extend its protest if its demands for pay raises and tax breaks are not met.

Ferry companies said that Monday's strike would affect about 180,000 people who had booked to travel to or from the islands.

## Iraq's parliament meets as blocs vie for majority

BAGHDAD — Iraq's newly-elected parliament held its first session on Monday as two blocs, both claiming to hold the most seats, vied for the right to form a new government.

Lawmakers must now select a parliament speaker before electing a president. The president then appoints a prime minister to form a government.

Two factions claim to hold the most seats in parliament and therefore the right to name a prime minister.

## Judge orders stabbing suspect held longer

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — An investigating judge on Monday ordered an Afghan asylum-seeker held for two more weeks on suspicion of stabbing "with a terrorist motive" two American tourists at Amsterdam's main railway station.

Following a closed-door hearing, the judge extended the 19-year-old suspect's custody because of fears he may flee, repeat the crime or violate the law, according to a statement by an Amsterdam court.

Earlier Monday, German authorities said the man had previously applied for asylum in Germany and was not considered a security threat there.

From The Associated Press

# WORLD

## Group: US and Russia block consensus at 'killer robots' meeting

Associated Press

GENEVA — A key opponent of high-tech, automated weapons known as "killer robots" is blaming countries like the U.S. and Russia for blocking consensus at a U.N.-backed conference, where most countries wanted to ensure that humans stay at the controls of lethal machines.

Coordinator Mary Wareham, of the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, spoke Monday after experts from dozens of countries agreed before dawn Saturday at the U.N.

in Geneva on 10 "possible guiding principles" about such "Lethal Automated Weapons Systems."

Point 2 said: "Human responsibility for decisions on the use of weapons systems must be retained since accountability cannot be transferred to machines."

Wareham said such language was not binding, adding that "it's time to start laying down some rules now."

Members of the LAWS conference will meet again in November.



MADOKA IKEGAMI/AP

**Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa stand Monday before the start of the opening ceremony of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.**

## Myanmar court sentences Reuters reporters to jail

BY VICTORIA MILKO  
AND AUNG NAING SOE

Associated Press

YANGON, Myanmar — A Myanmar court sentenced two Reuters journalists to seven years in prison Monday for illegal possession of official documents, a ruling met with international condemnation that will add to outrage over the military's human rights abuses against Rohingya Muslims.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo had been reporting on the brutal crackdown on the Rohingya when they were arrested and charged with violating the colonial-era Official Secrets Act, punishable by up to 14 years in prison. They had pleaded not guilty, contending that they were framed by police.

"Today is a sad day for Myanmar, Reuters journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, and the press everywhere," Stephen J. Adler, Reuters editor-in-chief, said in a statement. He said the charges were "designed to silence their reporting and intimidate the press."

The case has drawn worldwide attention as an example of how democratic reforms in long-isolated Myanmar have stalled under the civilian government of Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, which took power in 2016.

Though the military, which ruled the country for a half-century, maintains control of several key ministries, Suu Kyi's rise to government had raised hopes for an accelerated transition to full democracy, and her stance on the

Rohingya crisis has disappointed many former admirers.

As the verdict was announced in the hot Yangon courtroom, Kyaw Soe Oo's wife started crying, leaning into the lap of the person next to her. Outside the court, police and journalists shouted as the two Reuters reporters were led to a truck to be taken away.

"This is unfair," Wa Lone told the crowd. "I want to say they are obviously threatening our democracy and destroying freedom of the press in our country."

Karin Krolicki, Reuters regional editor for Asia, said outside the court that was "heartbreaking for friends and colleagues" and family of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, who in addition to the outrage many will feel, "are deprived of their friends and colleagues, husband and father."

Wa Lone, 32, and Kyaw Soe Oo, 28, both testified they suffered from harsh treatment during their initial interrogations after their arrests last December. Their several appeals for release on bail were rejected. Wa Lone's wife, Paing Ei Mon, gave birth to the couple's first child in Yangon on Aug. 10, but Wa Lone has not yet seen his daughter.

The two journalists had been reporting last year on the brutal crackdown by security forces on the Rohingya in Myanmar's Rakhine state. Some 700,000 Rohingya fled to neighboring Bangladesh to escape the violence targeting them after attacks by Rohingya militants killed a dozen members of the security forces.

## China's Xi pledges \$60B in financing for Africa

Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday pledged \$60 billion in financing for projects in Africa in the form of assistance, investment and loans, as China furthers efforts to link the continent's economic prospects to its own.

Speaking to a gathering of African leaders in Beijing, Xi said the figure includes \$15 billion in grants, interest-free loans and concessional loans, \$20 billion in credit lines, \$10 billion for "development financing" and \$5 billion to buy imports from Africa.

In addition, he said China will encourage companies to invest at least \$10 billion in Africa during the next three years.

No details were given on specific projects, although Xi said China was planning initiatives in eight areas, including providing \$147 million in emergency food aid, sending 500 agricultural experts to Africa, and providing scholarships, vocational training and trade promotion opportunities.

The pledge comes on top of a 2015 promise to provide African countries with \$60 billion in

funding that Xi said had either been delivered or arranged.

Also on Monday, Xi promoted Beijing's initiative to build ports and other infrastructure as a tool for "common prosperity" in a world facing challenges from trade protectionism.

Addressing businesspeople prior to the formal opening of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation, Xi said the "Belt and Road" initiative will expand markets. He tried to mollify concern that Beijing wants to build strategic influence, promising Chinese investment comes with "no political strings attached."

"Unilateralism and protectionism are on the rise. Economic growth lacks robust drive," Xi said in a speech. "China-Africa cooperation under the BRI is a way to common prosperity that brings benefits to both our peoples."

African and other Asian leaders have welcomed "Belt and Road" but some projects have prompted complaints about debt and other problems. The initiative involves hundreds of projects, most of them built by Chinese contractors and financed by loans from Chi-

nease state-owned banks, across an arc of 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and the Middle East.

In a major blow to China's ambitions, Malaysia recently canceled Chinese-financed projects worth more than \$20 billion, saying they were unnecessary and would create an unsustainable debt burden. Deeply indebted Pakistan is also reportedly reconsidering some projects in the multi-billion-dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor that is a key link in the BRI.

The Beijing forum brings together leaders from China and more than 50 African countries. Dozens of African leaders met with Xi ahead of the conference.

Xi made no mention of the political and debt concerns that overshadow some BRI projects. But Chinese officials previously have rejected accusations that projects leave host countries too deeply indebted to Chinese lenders.

"China's investment in Africa comes with no political strings attached," Xi said. "China does not interfere in Africa's internal affairs and does not impose its own will on Africa."

## Malaysian Muslim lesbian couple is caned in a rare public punishment

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Two Malaysian Muslim women convicted under Islamic laws of attempting to have sexual relations were caned Monday in a rare public whipping that was slammed by rights activists as a grave miscarriage of justice.

Lawyers and activists said the women, ages 22 and 32, were beaten on stools facing the judges and were given six strokes

from a light, rattan cane on their backs by female prison officers. More than 100 people witnessed the caning in a Shariah courtroom in northeast Terengganu state, they said.

Muslim Lawyers' Association deputy president Abdul Rahim Sinwan said that unlike caning under civil laws, the punishment under Islamic laws isn't painful or harsh and was meant to educate the

women so they will repent.

The women, dressed in white headscarves and clothing, didn't cry or scream but "showed remorse," he said.

"Repentance is the ultimate aim for their sin," he said.

Human rights groups slammed the punishment as a setback to human rights and said it could worsen discrimination against people in Malaysia's lesbian, bisexual, gay

and transgender community.

"Caning is a form of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment and may amount to torture," Amnesty International Malaysia said in a statement. "People should not live in fear because they are attracted to people of the same sex. The Malaysian authorities must immediately repeal repressive laws, outlaw torturous punishments and ratify the U.N. Convention Against Torture."


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**OPINION**

By IRWIN REDLENER  
*Special To The Washington Post*

The latest attempt to get an accurate death toll in Puerto Rico following last year's Hurricane Maria paints a grim picture: 2,975 "excess" deaths could be attributed to the storm, according to George Washington University researchers. That's 46 times more than the 64 deaths first reported last fall.

But the counting is far from over, and nobody should be surprised if the death toll in Puerto Rico reaches or exceeds 4,000 by the end of the year.

Here's why: Many of the conditions responsible for continued excess deaths remain and are unlikely to be appreciably ameliorated anytime soon.

The initial count focused only on first-phase storm-related deaths, such as from falling debris, electrocution from downed power lines, infections, drowning and so on. However, as is often the case in large-scale natural disasters affecting regions with fragile infrastructures and large numbers of economically disadvantaged, high-risk populations, later phases are often deadlier.

In the second phase, people die because electrical outages shut down home-based respirators and kidney dialysis centers. Access to vital prescription drugs may be severely limited as supply chains grind to a halt, putting people with conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and asthma at serious risk.

In phase three, profound population vulnerabilities become increasingly apparent and deadly. The ferocity of Hurricane Maria and the lack of resources to rapidly recover exacerbated long-standing physician shortages, poor transportation systems and long-standing inadequacies in the power grid.

Although electricity has been mostly restored in facilities that run dialysis machines for people with kidney failure, the entire electrical grid in Puerto Rico remains fragile. And although the supply chain for necessary medications needed by people with serious chronic medical conditions has been essentially restored, getting an appointment at or transportation to a medical facility remains highly problematic — especially for people living near or below poverty guidelines, a reality for nearly half of the island's population.

Medical access has always been a challenge for low-income people in Puerto Rico, where serious physician shortages existed long before last September's catastrophic storm. For decades, doctors have been leaving for the mainland United States, seeking higher pay and better lifestyle opportunities for their families. Between 2006 and 2016, the number of physicians in Puerto Rico dropped from 14,000 to 9,000. Hundreds more have left since Hurricane Maria, leading to severe staff shortages, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Puerto Rico reported.

A month after the George Washington researchers completed their data collection, Wendy Matos, who runs the island's largest network of medical specialists, noted that complications from chronic medical conditions had increased by at least 10 percent. "There is a serious problem with lack of access to health care in Puerto Rico," Matos said. "Many residents need doctors but cannot travel [to the clinics] because they don't have cars. Roads and transportation are ill-repaired and inaccessible."

The island has also seen dramatic increases in calls to mental health and suicide hotlines — up from the typical 150 to 200 calls a day to about 500 following last year's storms, said Puerto Rico's health secretary, Rafael Rodriguez Mercado.

All of these factors contribute to an on-

going and lethal crisis in Puerto Rico. The faster that meaningful recovery can be implemented and underlying vulnerabilities addressed, the fewer storm-related deaths there will be.

Bear in mind, too, that there are important consequences from the long delay in acknowledging an accurate tally of Hurricane Maria's deadly impact. The prolonged insistence on an absurdly low fatality rate allowed many to minimize the impact of the storm, failing to treat this extraordinary disaster with the urgency it warranted. Recall President Donald Trump's repeated assertion that "we did a fantastic job" in responding to the disaster. If the president had deployed military assets sooner and more effectively, many lives may have been saved.

Even more problematic is that none of the budget proposals winding their way through the House and the Senate has any funding specifically set aside for hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico. Although nearly \$14 billion has been appropriated for response efforts, it is dwarfed by the \$139 billion needed for a full recovery that would make the island more resilient than it was a year ago.

Hurricane Maria has been one of the deadliest natural disasters in U.S. history, killing roughly the same number of people who perished on 9/11 and about 40 percent more than the number who died as a result of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. If Congress doesn't help the more than 3 million American citizens who live in Puerto Rico recover from this catastrophic disaster, who will be held accountable?

Irwin Redlener directs Columbia University's National Center for Disaster Preparedness and is a professor at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. He is author of *"Americans at Risk: Why We Are Not Prepared for Megadisasters and What We Can Do Now"* and chairs the advisory panel for Somos Una Voz.

## No law forces Mueller to back off before midterms

By RANDALL D. ELIASON  
*Special To The Washington Post*

It's just over 60 days until the midterm elections. As we approach that mark, there's increasing chatter about its potential effect on the investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. Some claim Justice Department policy dictates Mueller not take any major new steps during this time. The truth is much less clear.

There is indeed a Justice Department policy against taking significant prosecutorial action in the weeks leading up to an election if those actions might influence the election's outcome. But this is not a formal rule written down anywhere, nor has it been mandated by a court or by Congress. It's variously referred to as a "norm," "tradition" or "custom" within the department. And there's not always agreement about what exactly the policy means or when it should apply.

President Donald Trump's legal team wants to portray this norm as an ironclad rule. Trump's attorney Rudy Giuliani has suggested that if Mueller does anything significant during this period, he will betray himself as a hopeless partisan defying Justice Department policy. Indeed, Giuliani has sought to transform the policy into a sort of statute of limitations, asserting that Mueller must not merely stand down for two months but must wrap up his entire investigation soon after Labor Day.

Giuliani's claims aside, one thing that is clear is that the policy is about timing, not outcomes. It would merely delay any new public actions until after the election. Dur-

ing that time, Mueller and his team could continue to work outside of public view to prepare whatever they have coming next.

It's also clear that choosing when to apply the policy is a matter of discretion and judgment, one that requires an evaluation of any potential impact on the coming election. And there's good reason to doubt whether the policy actually has much force with respect to the Mueller investigation.

First, the policy is most critical when the Justice Department action directly relates to someone who is a candidate in the upcoming election. That's not the case here; the president is not on the ballot, nor are any of the other people who could potentially be in Mueller's crosshairs.

The concerns underlying the policy also are heightened when the Justice Department actions would be a surprise, an unexpected bombshell that reshapes the political landscape. But the details of Mueller's investigation are widely known, and any potential implications are probably baked into the election already. Short of indicating the president himself, it's hard to imagine much Mueller could do that would dramatically alter the current picture.

Couple that with the fact Paul Manafort's second trial begins in a few weeks and could carry over into October. That guarantees that news about Trump, Manafort and the Mueller investigation will continue to be front and center leading up to the election, regardless of other steps Mueller might take.

Finally, the concerns about Justice Department action should be most pronounced when there is a risk the prosecu-

tion could seem politically motivated; if a prosecutor from one party could appear to be trying to take down a politician from the other. But despite the president's repeated tweets about "angry Democrats" investigating him, Mueller is a Republican, and any steps he takes will be approved by Trump's own Republican deputy attorney general.

For all these reasons, Mueller will be on solid ground if he decides just to proceed on course. But by claiming this discretionary norm is actually a hard and fast rule, Trump's legal team is playing a political game they can't really lose. If Mueller delays, they succeed in minimizing any additional bad news before the midterms. If Mueller proceeds with some new action, Trump's team will claim he is flouting long-standing Justice Department policy — further evidence of an illegitimate "witch hunt."

Mueller, on the other hand, is in something of a no-win situation. Either course — taking new action or holding back and depriving the electorate of additional information — may be criticized by partisans as potentially affecting the election. Given that reality, he may conclude the wisest course is simply to lay low for the next two months to avoid giving the president's team additional ammunition. But if he does, it will be because he chooses to, not because it is required — and in the end all it means is a slight delay. Come Nov. 7, all bets are off.

Randall D. Eliaison teaches white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School.

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons

© Tim Campbell



TRUMP SENDS FEDERAL WORKERS A LITTLE SOMETHING EXTRA IN THEIR PAY

TIM CAMPBELL/Washington Post News Service

A QUICK LOOK AT THE UPCOMING CONFIRMATION PROCESS...



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## PACIFIC

# Caution, hope in N. Korea

Kim pushing ahead with new economic strategy

By ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press

MOUNT CHILBO, North Korea — Tanned and wearing a swimsuit, So Myong Il walked to the barbecue pit and threw on some clams.

He obviously loves the beach he's on as well as the rugged, emerald Chilbo mountains that rise abruptly behind it. He loves them enough to forget, for a moment at least, that he is a senior official sent to deliver an ideology-soaked pitch singeing their prawns and instead lets the Jong family beauty surrounding him speak for itself.

Comrade So sees great things for North Korean attractions like this: hotels, big and small, tourists from all over the country, maybe the world. "As long as we have the leadership of our respected Marshal," he said, referring to leader Kim Jong Un, "our future will be bright indeed."

So wouldn't think of questioning the leader, but there is a hint of apprehension in his voice. And he isn't alone.

North Korea is pushing ahead with a new strategy of economic development and the intensified diplomacy with China, South Korea and the United States that such a move requires. But hopes for a better future are mixed with concern over potential downsides of political or social volatility, and something that's harder to articulate: a fear of the unknown — even if it appears far more promising than the arduous path the country has been on for decades.

Even before announcing in January that he had sufficiently perfected his nuclear arsenal and could start to focus on other things, Kim has held economic development to be his primary long-term concern.



NG HAN GUAN/AP

**North Korean fishermen ply the waters off Mount Chilbo, North Korea, last month. Mount Chilbo, one of the country's most cherished natural attractions, is gearing up for a future it hopes will include a lot of economic development.**

He has allowed markets and entrepreneurial to flourish, and since succeeding his father as leader seven years ago, has dramatically transformed the skyline of the capital, Pyongyang, with several high-rise districts. The transformation in the east coast city of Wonsan, where Kim has a summer villa, has been almost as spectacular.

As Kim prepares for the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding on Sunday, his ambitious development plan is being implemented — from the small-time renovation of town halls to the almost biblical-scale mobilization of "soldier-builders" who are working around the clock to turn the remote northern city of Samjiyon into yet another showpiece of Pyongyang-style socialism.

Economic development and high U.S. capital and know-how could speed it along — was President Donald Trump's big carrot when he met with Kim in Singapore three months ago to try to negotiate a de-nuclearization deal.

## Kim's game plan

But Kim's diplomatic overtures aren't intended to open the door to American capitalists, a scenario that would make any good party cadre shudder. They are aimed at breaking down support for sanctions and getting the U.S. to step out of the way. Kim's game is to play China and the U.S. off of each other, grab whatever concessions he can along the way and adjust his position as the situation evolves.

In the meantime, lest anyone get the wrong idea, the ruling Workers' Party of Korea has begun churning out paean to socialism in its daily newspaper, along with anti-capitalism, anti-imperialism screeds that underscore North Korea's official opposition to essentially anything that might be considered the American way of life.

The past few months have been tense in Pyongyang. Restrictions on some of the movements of foreign diplomats have been tightened, for example, and even requests by The Associated Press to interview government officials or to speak with regular citizens have mostly been denied.

Uncertain of where it might all end up, state-run media have provided only limited coverage of Kim's meetings with Trump in June and his multiple summits with Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. Reports have portrayed Kim as the consummate statesman, firmly in charge of a carefully considered strategy to make his country safer and more prosperous.

Kim is ardently wooing South Korean investment to help him build the very things Trump was offering: infrastructure, particularly roads and railways, and the development of selected tourism zones.

After a high-profile chill last year, he is also actively courted Beijing, which continues to be an essential source of fuel, a key market for North Korea's coal and other natural resources and a fairly reliable check

on U.S. power in the region.

Undoubtedly, images of the leader smiling and shaking hands with Trump, whose face had never been on the front pages of their newspapers before, signaled a major and bewildering change to many North Koreans.

## A populace mobilized

But officials have made sure they don't have much time to ruminant on it.

Normal routines of work and study have been put on hold for large segments of the populace who have been mobilized for the development projects.

Mount Chilbo, a collection of rocky peaks and a stretch of largely untouched seashore on the country's northeastern fringe, is one of North Korea's most cherished natural wonders.

The first hotel for non-Korean visitors opened in the 1980s, followed in 2004 by homestay-style lodgings near the beach, said So, a North Hwanghae Province People's Committee official. Together, they have a capacity of fewer than 100 guests and operate only from April until early November.

Many North Koreans bring tents and sleep on the beach.

But even in this rustic corner of the country, the pressure to contribute to Kim's grand development scheme is keenly felt.

So said he would soon travel to China to discuss possible areas of cooperation.

## Miracle cancer cures? Boomboxes? A shopping guide to the North

Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — North Korea's official shopper's guide is glossy and full of testimonials from satisfied customers and phone and email contact information for the dozens of companies pitching their latest products — although good luck reaching any of them.

The "2018 Korea Commodities" catalog, produced by the North's Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, reflects a side of North Korea often lost in the shadow of its nuclear weapons. Leader Kim Jong Un and many other North Koreans firmly believe their country needs to make more and better consumer goods and sell them to the outside world if it is ever going to have a strong — or even sustainable — economy.

Among the items North Korea sees as its most promising products are:

■ Energy drinks and cheese-flavored

eskimo pies. Coke and other foreign brands are relatively rare and expensive in North Korea. But the O-II General Processing Factory has tried to fill the gap.

A surprising amount of shelf space in Pyongyang grocery stores and, increasingly, stores elsewhere has been taken over by sugary soft drinks, much of which is produced by O-II and other well-known brands. Air Koryo, the country's flagship airline, also has its own line of drinks.

"With an antioxidant power 176 times that of vitamin C, 431 times vitamin E and 863 times more than coenzyme Q10," it ad claims, "the hydrogen water is effective in avoiding mental and physical fatigues, retarding the aging process, neutralizing all kinds of poisons, preventing radioactive and oxidant damages, improving immunity, fighting cancer and treating arteriosclerosis through purification of blood."

■ Miracle cures for cancer? Tradition-

al "Koryo" medicines dating to ancient times are widely used in North Korea, in part because of the scarcity of modern Western medicines, and have long been popular with Chinese tourists. North Korea sees big potential for exports.

Leading the charge is the Pugang Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd., a pioneer both in making health supplements and in using advertising to sell them, a tricky undertaking given that such capitalist practices are still officially frowned upon. Posters for its best-known product — Royal Blood-Fresh — can be seen in department stores in Pyongyang and at souvenir shops catering to foreigners. It's also featured in infomercials on Air Koryo flights from Beijing.

So what is it?

According to the catalog, Royal Blood-Fresh is a supplement made primarily from beans that's recommended for long flights to help prevent or cure deep vein

thrombosis. Posters targeting foreign tourists say, "Fly safe with Royal Blood-Fresh" and "Who says you can't grow younger and cleverer?"

■ Boomboxes. Sony, Samsung and Huawei don't need to lose any sleep over it, but North Korea has several brands of electronics.

The Hana Electronics Trading Co., which began in 2003 as a joint venture with Phoenix Commercial Ventures in Britain, is one of the best known. It is promoting karaoke boomboxes, flat-screen TVs and DVD players. Other well-known brands, like Achim and Pyolmuri, are pitching TVs — 3-D compatibility appears to be a hot extra these days — along with laptops and tablets.

It's unclear if the products are fully produced in North Korea or just assembled and rebranded.

But they do basically work.

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Tariff fight adds to China's economic challenges

By JOE McDONALD  
Associated Press

**BELING —** China faces bigger economic challenges than its trade war with the U.S.

Even before tit-for-tat tariffs, growth in the world's No. 2 economy was already forecast to cool from 6.8 percent last year to a still-robust 6.5 percent this year.

Communist leaders who are trying to engineer slower, more self-sustaining growth clamped down last year on a bank lending boom that encouraged businesses and families to borrow and spend beyond their means. But it is a tricky balance to strike and communist leaders worry the economy is weakening too much.

Growth in retail sales, a bigger part of the Chinese economy than exports, was weaker than expected in July and close to a 14-year low. Factory output and other sectors also decelerated. Beijing responded by easing lending and boosting government spending.

"We expect the economy to get worse before it gets better," said Nomura economists in a report.

President Donald Trump's advisers say the slowdown gives Washington leverage in the trade battle.

"Their economy looks terrible," said Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, at a recent Cabinet meeting last month.

But analysts closer to China say it is doing better than Americans might think.

"A lot of this economic slowdown is really the result of an intended policy," said Tai Hui, of J.P. Morgan Asset Management in Hong Kong. "The overall growth momentum is still relatively healthy and certainly broadly in line with the authorities' plans."

Here is a breakdown of China's economic strengths and



MARK SCHIEFFELBEIN/AP

**A visitor talks on his phone in front of a display of manufacturing robots from Chinese robot maker Honyen on Thursday. China's growth in retail sales was close to a 14-year low in July.**

weaknesses:

■ **Economic slowdown.** July's downturn was more abrupt than policymakers wanted.

Growth in factory output slowed to 6 percent from May's 6.8 percent. Investment in factories and other fixed assets rose at the slowest rate in 19 years. Retail spending and corporate profits weakened.

With less demand from Chinese steel mills, global prices for iron ore are off 14 percent this year — and down 60 percent from their 2010 peak. That cuts revenue for Australia and other producers.

China's yuan has sunk in value against the dollar. That helps exporters by making Chinese toys, appliances and other goods cheaper for American consumers. But regulators worry it will trigger an outflow of money, making it harder for companies to borrow.

■ **China's response.** Regulators eased credit controls, promised

more spending on public works and announced policy changes aimed at making Chinese industry more productive.

Banks have been told to lend more freely to small exporters that might be hurt by Trump's tariffs. That temporarily backtracks on government efforts to rein in rising debt.

The government is pumping money into the economy with plans to spend more on building roads, bridges and other public works.

Beijing has speeded up the rollout of plans to ease restrictions on foreign ownership in auto manufacturing, banking and insurance.

The moves are not, however, intended to address American complaints at the center of the trade war. Those hinge on U.S. objections to Chinese plans for state-led creation of global champions in robotics, electric cars and other technologies. American officials

complain those violate Beijing's market-opening commitments and might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Instead, China is trying to reduce reliance on foreign markets and technology by promoting domestic consumption and industry development.

■ **Tumbling stocks.** While Wall Street sets records, China's stock market is 2018's worst global performer.

The market benchmark tumbled 25 percent from its January peak to mid-August. It has gained 3.7 percent since then after government spending plans helped to revive investor confidence.

The biggest declines are real estate, construction and other companies hardest-hit by Beijing's lending controls.

Shares in Poly Real Estate

economy that is bigger than Japan and Germany combined. The first round hit July 6 and Trump says they could spread to cover up to \$250 billion of Chinese imports.

Credit Suisse says if all threatened U.S. tariffs are imposed, that might trim 0.2 percentage points off Chinese growth this year and 1.9 percentage points in 2019.

"I don't think Beijing is willing to yield significantly," said Hui, of J.P. Morgan. "Especially to pressure from another country. You know the historical precedent of that is just not acceptable."

## EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates	Commercial rates
Euro costs (Sept. 4)	\$1.1953	\$1.1953
Dollar buys (Sept. 4)	€0.8366	€0.8366
British pound	¥135.35	¥135.35
Chinese (Yuan)	109.00	109.00
Japanese yen (Sept. 4)	1,085.50	1,085.50
South Korean won (Sept. 4)	1,085.50	1,085.50
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8496	7.8496
Hong Kong (Forint)	281.70	281.70
Israel (Shekel)	1,613.80	1,613.80
Japan (Yen)	111.12	111.12
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3030	0.3030
Lithuania (Litas)	0.5959	0.5959
Philippines (Peso)	53.51	53.51
Poland (Zloty)	3.7020	3.7020
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3718	1.3718
South Korea (Won)	1,111.70	1,111.70
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9690	0.9690
Thailand (Bath)	32.74	32.74
Turkey (New Lira)	6.6434	6.6434

These exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. They are not available in the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., nonmilitary), contact your bank or check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates. These rates are for buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pounds, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.92
3-month bill	2.05
30-year bond	3.01

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

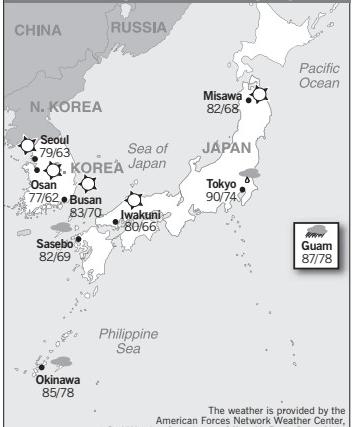
### TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### TUESDAY IN EUROPE



### WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Pilot almost lands at wrong airport

**FL** FORT MYERS — An American Airlines flight from Philadelphia almost landed at the wrong Florida airport before air traffic controllers guided it back on course.

The Fort Myers News-Press reported that a pilot began approaching Page Field on Thursday, but the plane was supposed to be landing at Southwest Florida International Airport more than 7 miles away.

A local pilot who examined flight data told the newspaper the Airbus A320 descended to about 800 feet on approach to Page Field before it climbed back to 1,500 feet and zigzagged to the correct airport.

## Ankle monitors place suspects at burglary

**AK** FAIRBANKS — Authorities said two Alaskan men were arrested after their court-ordered GPS ankle monitors placed them at the scene of a burglary.

The Fairbanks Daily News-Miner reported the men, both of North Pole, are each charged with felony second-degree burglary, three counts of felony second-degree theft and misdemeanor second-degree vehicle theft following their arrest Wednesday.

A criminal complaint says both men were out on bail for pending criminal cases and were wearing the ankle monitors as a condition of their release.

The owner of the North Pole shop called Alaska State Troopers on Monday to report someone broke into his shop and stole a \$19,000 Can-Am side-by-side utility vehicle, among other things.

## Horse with injured leg rescued from mountains

**OR** ESTACADA — An injured horse found wandering alone in a northeastern Oregon wilderness was rescued.

KATU-TV reported that the 8-year-old horse, named Sandy, was led out of the Wallowa Mountains last week and is recovering at the Eagle Fern Equine Hospital in Estacada.

A U.S. Forest Service lookout on Mule Peak spotted the horse several weeks ago. He called for help after spotting her again a week later.

It's not clear who owns Sandy or how she sustained the injuries.

## Man arrested for firehouse swastikas

**NY** NEW YORK — Authorities said a man was arrested for vandalizing a New York City firehouse and several ambulances with swastikas and hateful language.

City fire marshals arrested Jim Ibrahimov, 42, on Saturday after he allegedly returned to the scene of the crime.

A fire department spokesman said on Facebook that Ibrahimov was arrested by fire marshals who caught him in the act while they were staking out an upper Manhattan firehouse that had

## THE CENSUS

# 42

The approximate number of pipe bombs found in a Mesa, Ariz., man's home, along with material to make dozens more. Charging documents say Jeffrey Dennis Metcalf, 51, faces 40 counts of manufacturing, selling and possessing prohibited weapons. A judge ordered Metcalf released on \$50,000 bond Thursday. The Arizona Department of Public Safety said a multiagency task force learned Metcalf was in possession of explosives. A search warrant led to the discovery of 42 pipe bombs with shrapnel. Officers evacuated nearby homes before removing all the devices. Metcalf will have a preliminary hearing Sept. 10.



JACOB FORD, ODESSA (TEXAS) AMERICAN/AP

## Climbing the Fire Ball

Rafeal Mendoza climbs the Fire Ball ride to activate the hydraulic lift to complete the loop in preparation for the Permian Basin Fair & Exposition at Ector County Coliseum in Odessa, Texas, which opens Friday.

been vandalized twice before.

Authorities believe Ibrahimov also scrawled graffiti on at least six ambulances.

Police said Ibrahimov was arrested on multiple charges including aggravated harassment.

## Semiretired pastor is threatened with eviction

**VA** FREDERICKSBURG — A battle is brewing at a Virginia apartment complex over a semiretired pastor's Bible studies.

The Free Lance-Star in Fredericksburg reported Friday that

the complex's owner has threatened to evict Kenneth Hauge, 86, if he continues hosting the Bible studies. Hauge is fighting back with the help of a national nonprofit focused on protecting religious freedom.

The complex, Evergreens at Smith Run, says Hauge pressured tenants to join his Bible studies and made them feel so uncomfortable that they left the clubroom. The complex said Hauge also violated its policies by inviting nonresidents to the clubroom.

The Texas-based First Liberty Institute accuses the complex of blatant discrimination.

## Border-straddling street's residents irked

**VT** MONTPELIER — Some residents of a Vermont street that is split by the Canadian border are irked by what they feel is the latest indignity imposed on them by U.S. border officials who they feel make it harder for them to reach their homes.

Officials with U.S. Customs and Border Protection say the "hydraulic barrier" they are installing in the Beebe Plain neighborhood of Derby is part of a broader effort to ensure they know who is entering the U.S.

from Canada.

The officials say they are doing everything they can to minimize disruptions for the people in the 14 Vermon homes on Canusa Avenue. Across-the-street neighbors live in Canada.

## City sees wave of assaults on bus drivers

**OH** CINCINNATI — Authorities in Cincinnati are looking at possible solutions to an ongoing problem of city bus drivers getting assaulted by passengers.

According to Southwestern Ohio Regional Transit Authority records, Cincinnati Metro bus drivers have been assaulted 14 times since 2016, with nine in 2017 and two so far in 2018. The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that there is a bill in the Ohio Legislature that would increase the charge for assaulting a transit worker from a misdemeanor to a felony.

Cincinnati Metro says it is also considering installing new Plexiglas barriers that would shield drivers from passengers.

## Dad video chats to find child with drunken driver

**FL** ODESSA — A Florida dad used FaceTime to help find his daughter, 5, trapped in the back seat of a car while the driver was passed out drunk.

Pasco County Sheriff's officials said Matthew Nisse began searching for the woman and his daughter after finding them missing when he came home from work. He finally got the child to answer a cellphone on Aug. 28. He used a 911 operator he used video chat to pinpoint their location.

Authorities did not reveal the couple's relationship, but the Tampa Bay Times reported that Sarah Nisse, 30, is his wife.

Authorities said her blood-alcohol was more than three times the legal limit. She was charged with child neglect and driving under the influence.

## Camera, 'decoy' tent used to watch for bear

**MT** WEST GLACIER — Glacier National Park officials have deployed a game camera and empty "decoy" tent at a popular campground to watch for a bear that's believed to have torn into an unoccupied tent.

Park officials said an animal rippled through the side of the tent at Rising Sun Campground and pulled out bedding and pillows. Hair samples and a seat pile believed to be from a bear were found at the scene.

The park banned tents and soft-sided campers from the campground until further notice. Hard-sided camping vehicles still are allowed.

From wire reports

## FACES

# Mission omission

**Neil Armstrong's sons, filmmaker defend depiction of moon landing in 'First Man'**

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

The sons of Neil Armstrong are defending Damien Chazelle's docudrama about the moon landing after conservative pundits decried the film's lack of emphasis on the American flag's planting on the lunar surface.

In a joint statement Aug. 31, Rick and Mark Armstrong, along with "First Man" author James R. Hansen, denied that Chazelle's film is "anti-American in the slightest." "Quite the opposite," they said.

"This story is human and it is universal. Of course, it celebrates an American achievement. It also celebrates an achievement 'for all mankind,'" said the Armstrongs and Hansen. "The filmmakers chose to focus on Neil looking back at the Earth, his walk to Little West Crater, his unique, personal experience of completing this journey, a journey that has seen so many incredible highs and devastating lows."

Though "First Man" includes several shots showing the Americans can flag on the moon, it does not depict the flag planting. After the film premiered last week at the Venice Film Festival, some commentators on social media who hadn't seen the movie criti-

cized the film. They were reacting largely to Ryan Gosling, who stars as Neil Armstrong, telling reporters that the astronaut's accomplishments "transcend countries and borders."

Columbus Bill Kristol claimed the film was "a foolish and pernicious falsification of history."

But Chazelle said the decision around the flag planting wasn't political but aesthetic. The "La La Land" filmmaker was motivated to portray the risks and challenges of the moon mission through the eyes of Armstrong.

"The flag being physically planted into the surface is one of several moments of the Apollo 11 lunar EVA that I chose not to focus upon," said Chazelle. "To address the question of whether this was a political statement, the answer is no."

"My goal with this movie was to share with audiences the unseen, unknown aspects of America's mission to the moon — particularly Neil Armstrong's personal saga and what he may have been thinking and feeling during those famous few hours."

Film critics enthusiastically responded to the film, rocketing "First Man" to early lists of possible Oscar favorites. Universal Pictures will release it Oct. 12.



Ryan Gosling plays astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, in "First Man."

UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

## U2 concert in Germany ends early after Bono loses his voice

From wire reports

U2 had to end a concert in Germany on the second night of the band's European tour after lead singer Bono lost his voice during the performance.

The band posted a statement on its website after it halted the Sept. 1 concert in Berlin, early, explaining that "Bono was in great form and great voice prior to the show ... but after a few songs he suffered a complete loss of voice."

Bono left the stage at Berlin's Mercedes-Benz Arena after the 58-year-old frontman made it through the U2 hit "Beautiful Day" with the help of the audience, German news agency dpa reported Sunday.

Concertgoers first were told there would be a short break and eventually were informed the show was over, dpa said. They were advised to keep their tickets for a replacement performance. On Sunday, there was a note on the band's website from Bono he's seen a doctor and will be back to full voice for the rest of the tour. The site also said the show is rescheduled for Nov. 13.

U2 opened the European segment of its 2018 "Experience + Innocence" tour in Berlin on Aug. 31. It has a sold-out show scheduled in Cologne on Tuesday and a second concert in the German city on Wednesday before back-to-back performances in Paris on Saturday and Sunday.

### Paul McCartney talks of psychedelic experience

Former Beatle Paul McCartney has told a British newspaper he believes he once saw God during a psychedelic trip. He

76-year-old star told The Sunday Times he was "humbled" by the experience.

He said that it was huge. A massive wall that I couldn't see the top of, and I was at the bottom. And anybody else would say it's just the drug, the hallucination, but we felt we had seen a higher thing."

The Beatles' music was heavily influenced by psychedelic drugs in the band's final years. McCartney also spoke of allowing himself to believe that his lost loved ones, including his late wife Linda, are "looking down" on him. The singer is promoting a new album and a tour. He remains one of music's most popular concert acts.

### Actress in 'ER,' 'Stand and Deliver' fatally shot by police

An actress who appeared on the TV medical drama "ER" and starred in the film "Stand and Deliver" was fatally shot by police officers in Southern California after they say she pointed a replica handgun at them.

Vanessa Marquez, who gained attention last year when she said George Clooney helped blacklist her from Hollywood, died at a hospital after the Aug. 30 shooting at her apartment in South Pasadena, just outside Los Angeles.

South Pasadena police officers responded to a call from Marquez's landlord that she needed medical help. When they arrived, she was having a seizure, Lt. Joe Mendoza with the Los Angeles County

Sheriff's Department said Aug. 31.

Paramedics treated Marquez, 49, who improved and began talking with three officers and a mental health clinician who spent 90 minutes trying to talk her into getting medical help, Mendoza said.

Marquez became uncooperative, appeared unable to care for herself and seemed to have mental health issues, he said.

At some point, Mendoza said Marquez got what turned out to be a BB gun and pointed it at the officers, prompting two of them to shoot.

"It looked like a real gun," he said, adding that it's unclear where the gun was during her lengthy interaction with police.

### Gladys Knight does not have cancer despite her remark

Gladys Knight is fine, folks. Calm down. That's according to her publicist, who on Aug. 31 rejected a comment the legendary singer made earlier in the day to a local Detroit TV station on her way into Aretha Franklin's funeral.

"We shared the fact that we had the same disease," Knight tagged onto the end of two minutes' worth of comments to WDIV-TV about her late friend — but the 74-year-old singer apparently didn't mean it literally.

"She's healthy. Someone must have misinterpreted," Knight's publicist Javier Delgado told Detroit Free Press. Alas, some outliers had already run with the story.

Delgado talked to the Detroit News as well, saying, "Maybe she meant she feels her pain. But she does not have cancer."

### Other news

■ "Crazy Rich Asians" isn't slowing down at the box office even in its third weekend in theaters. Studios on Sunday say the romantic comedy has topped the domestic charts again. Warner Bros. estimates that the film added an additional \$22.2 million through Sunday, down only 10 percent from last weekend. Should the pace hold, it could also have one of the biggest Labor Day weekends ever. The current record sits with 2007's "Halloween," which opened with \$30.6 million.

■ Singer Lana Del Rey has canceled her planned performance at an Israeli music festival after pressure from Palestinian boycott activists. In a Twitter message Aug. 31, Del Rey says she is delaying "until a time when I can schedule visits for both my Israeli and Palestinian fans." It wasn't clear whether it was a direct response to the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement's boycott call. Still, it marked a setback for Israel, which aims to prevent politics from infiltrating the arts. Del Rey was to headline the inaugural Meteor Festival in northern Israel this week.

■ Grammy Award-winning rapper T-Pain was detained by Atlanta police after he tried going through a security checkpoint with a gun Aug. 31 at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. News outlets report police said the gun was found in a backpack belonging to T-Pain, whose real name is Faheem Rashad Najim. Investigators say the bag was being carried by his bodyguard, Carlos Alejito Flores. A police statement said no charges were filed against either man.



Marquez

# SHIFTING GEARS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHEVROLET/TNS

# 2019 Silverado: Great engineering, OK interior

By MARK PHELAN  
Detroit Free Press

JACKSON HOLE, Wyo. — Remarkably quiet and easy to drive, the all-new 2019 Chevy Silverado makes a strong bid for the title of America's best pickup.

Don't plan the victory parade yet, though. Ram will unveil a mild-hybrid version of its own all-new full-size pickup shortly in the pitched battle for supremacy in the auto industry's biggest and most profitable market segment.

The all-new Silverado, Ram and the soon-to-come GMC Sierra all aim to take a slice out of perennial No. 1 seller Ford F-150's hide.

The Silverado weighs as much as 450 pounds less than comparable 2018 models, despite having much more cargo and passenger space. Chevy claims a Silverado with the short cargo box has more cargo capacity than the competition's longer, standard-bed pickups.

That's a big deal because it could also make the new Chevy relatively easy to park and drive in the suburbs and cities where many truck owners live and work. The added cargo capacity is thanks to one of the Silverado's many innovations, a bed with tucked-in walls that fit the Silverado's structure like a tailored suit.

Also in the service of making these big vehicles easy to use in crowded environments, a short-box Silverado's overall length increased just 1.7 inches while its wheelbase grew 4.0. The bed got an inch of the extra space. The other 3 inches went to rear legroom in the four-door crew cab models that account for well over half of sales.

I spent a day driving 2019 Silverado crew cabs through the mountains and high meadows of western Wyoming and eastern

The 355-horsepower 5.3-liter V-8 pulled effortlessly up a 10 percent grade in Teton Pass. The route included a short but challenging off-road course strewn with boulders and a mudhole. I also towed a 6,000-pound trailer.

The Silverado passed all tests with flying colors.

GM's new dynamic fuel management system seamlessly — and magically, if you know much about how engines work — lets the V-8 engines switch from using all eight cylinders to one, and every combination between.

That helps a four-wheel-drive Silverado get EPA scores of 16 mpg in the city, 22 on the highway and 18 in combined driving with the 5.3L V-8 and eight-speed au-

tomatic transmission. The more powerful top 6.2L V-8 rated 16 city, 20 highway and 17 combined with a 10-speed automatic.

Chevy said the cylinder deactivation system improves city fuel economy 5 percent, and may save even more fuel in real-world driving than on the EPA lab test.

That's impressive, but the remarkable thing is that the driver can't tell whether the engine is firing on all eight cylinders, or one, three, five, any combination. Operating like that would have shaken previous engines apart, but not before making the vehicle buck like a bronco.

The Silverado's light strong frame gets a lot of the credit for that, and for a smooth, quiet ride on rough roads. The Silverado's frame and body benefit from what GM calls its mixed materials approach. Unlike Ford, which got plaudits when it switched the F-150 to a lighter all-aluminum body a few years ago, the Silverado's body and frame use a wide range of materials, including some aluminum and several different grades of steel to add strength where it's needed.

The frame is 90 pounds lighter, but strong and stiff to achieve the Silverado's vibration-free ride without the electronic systems many other vehicles use.

Comfort also benefits from new 20- and 22-inch tires with higher sidewalls — the equivalent of softer springs. The trucks weren't inclined to bounce when driven empty, despite a 5 percent increase in towing capacity and 14 percent bump in payload, the amount of weight they can carry in their beds.

The electric power steering is smooth and precise. The crew cab Silverados I drove — a \$50,995 LT Trail Boss and top-of-the-line \$62,535 High Country — were maneuverable and easy to handle.

The 2019 Silverado will have the widest model range in Chevy trucks' 101-year his-

tory — eight distinct models from the luxurious High Country crew cab to two-door work trucks. Between the spacious crew cab and two-door regular cab, a "double cab" has smaller rear doors and back seat than the crew cab. Crew cabs are the best-selling model.

New models for 2019 include the RST, a well-equipped pickup with body color trim instead of chrome for a more citified look, and the Trail Boss and Custom Trail Boss, off-road models with a 2.0-inch suspension lift, locking differential, skid plates and other goodies.

Chevy pulled out all the stops for the Silverado's engineering and model range, but its most upscale interior clearly trails the luxury of top competitors from Ford and Ram. While those pickups offer leather fit for a hand-tooled saddle and detailing like saddle-bag-style map pockets and barbed-wire pattern floor mats, the Silverado High Country's interior holds no surprises.

Similarly, the LT Trail Boss I drove featured lots of black soft-touch materials that felt fine, but didn't look like anything special. The Silverado crew cab has plenty of room, storage bins and cubbies, however.

Crew cab models with 355 hp 5.3L and 420 hp 6.2L V-8s are available now. A 5.3L without the electronic cylinder deactivation system will be available for fleet customers buying work trucks.

A 310 hp four-cylinder 2.7L turbocharged four-cylinder engine linked to the eight-speed arrives this fall as the base engine for the volume-selling LT and RST. A 285 hp 4.3L V-6 and six-speed automatic for base work trucks also arrives this fall.

A 3.0L V-6 diesel is due in early 2019.

Production of double cabs begins this fall. Two-door regular cab Silverados — the least popular and profitable models — are expected in the first quarter of 2019.

## 2019 Chevy Silverado



**Base prices:** \$29,795-\$54,495  
**High Country cab tested:** 6.2L OHV V-8 with cylinder deactivation; 10-speed automatic transmission

**Power:** 420 horsepower/460 foot-pound of torque

**Towing capacity:** 12,200 lbs.

**Payload:** 2,100 lbs.

**EPA fuel economy rating:** 16 mpg city/20 highway/17 combined

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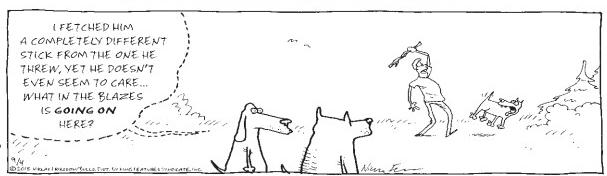
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12					13				14				
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38	39	40							41		42	43	44
45									46		47		
48									49		50		
51									52		53		

## ACROSS

- 1 Spill the beans  
5 Corp execs  
8 Price  
12 Uncleous  
13 Odometer start  
14 Sea predator  
15 Flower parts rich  
in Vitamin C  
17 500 sheets  
18 Rock's Brian  
19 World Cup cheer  
20 Garden dwarf  
21 Earl Grey, for one  
21 Pen name  
23 Ravi's instrument  
26 Raw fish dish  
30 "American"—  
31 Pot-bellied pet  
32 One-named  
supermodel  
33 Icon lineup  
35 Frighten  
36 Drunkard  
37 Existed  
38 Overly  
aggressive  
41 Back talk  
42 Service charge  
45 Con  
46 Prays  
48 Dance move  
49 Candle count  
50 Exploits  
51 Brady and Hanks  
52 Deleted,  
with "out"  
53 Biblical pronoun

## DOWN

- 1 Drill  
2 King of the  
jungle  
3 To boot  
4 "See ya!"  
5 Kin of "Presto!"  
6 Vatican VIP  
7 "Mayday!"  
8 Crunchy party  
snacks  
9 Popular  
cookie  
10 Con job  
11 Docile  
16 Farmer,  
at times  
20 USO patrons  
21 Vessels with  
high masts  
22 Satchel  
23 Perch  
24 Wedding words  
25 Overly  
26 —Lancelot  
27 "As I see it,"  
to a texer  
28 Chairman  
of China  
29 Squid squirt  
31 Bit of butter  
34 Lad  
35 Easy targets  
37 Overcaffeinated  
38 Bygone days  
39 Golden rule word  
40 Goblet feature  
41 Theater box  
42 Go angling  
43 Duel tool  
44 Being,  
to Brutus  
46 Letter sealer  
47 Grass shack

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

E	L	M	I	R	S	P	E	D	I
E	D	A	F	C	O	Q	A	X	I
I	N	C	A	I	O	U	I	T	E
E	T	H	I	C	M	A	N	N	
N	C	O	B	I	T	T	E	R	
L	A	S	T	I	N	G	A	B	O
U	T	A	H	E	A	T	R	A	I
L	A	G	E	R	P	R	O	U	D
U	N	S	A	I	D	U	P	S	
R	A	R	E	T	H	I	N	K	
J	O	L	I	V	S	E	T	O	
O	D	I	V	E	E	S	A	G	
B	E	N	D	E	S	C	L	O	

## 9-4

L O I A R   L S   R M N E Y   I M S   P A  
G M H H L P E A   S M   W L I L H V   S V A

W M M S B Z Q A   L I   W L B H S   G E Z Q A ,

P N S   H A Q M I Y   P A Q O M I A Y .

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## SCOREBOARD

Sports  
on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules.  
myafn.net

## Pro soccer

## MLS

## Eastern Conference

## Western Conference

## FC Dallas

## Los Angeles FC

## Sporting KC

## Real Salt Lake

## Montreal

## D.C. United

## New England

## Toronto FC

## Orlando City

## Chicago

## Atlanta United

## Seattle Sounders

## Portland Timbers

## Vancouver Whitecaps

## Minnesota United

## Houston

## Columbus Crew SC

## San Jose

## Note: Three points for victory, one point for a tie.

## Saturday, September 1

## Seattle, 3, Sporting Kansas City 1

## Montreal, 2, Atlanta United, 1

## Philadelphia, 2, Orlando City, 2, tie

## Portland, 1, New England, 1, tie

## Columbus, 2, D.C. United, 1, tie

## FC Dallas, 4, Houston, 2

## Los Angeles FC, 4, Toronto FC, 2

## Real Salt Lake, 1, Seattle Sounders, 2

## Vancouver, 2, Portland Timbers, 1

## Minnesota, 0, Atlanta United, 1

## Houston, 1, Columbus Crew SC, 2

## Columbus, 1, San Jose, 0

## Sunday, September 2

## D.C. United, 1, Atlanta United, 0

## Wednesday, September 5

## New England at New York City FC

## Saturday, September 8

## D.C. United at New York City FC

## Orlando City at Sporting Kansas City

## Colorado at Portland

## Sunday, September 9

## DC United, 3, Atlanta United, 1

## Atlanta, 1, D.C. United, 2

## Portland, 1, Seattle, 2

## Tuesday, September 11

## Philadelphia, 1, Atlanta United, 0

## Wednesday, September 12

## Tuesday, September 18

## D.C. United, 2, Atlanta United, 1

## Sunday, September 23

## Tuesday, September 25

## Wednesday, September 26

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## Sunday, March 26

## Tuesday, March 28

## Wednesday, March 29

## US OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS

## Scoreboard

## Sunday

at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center  
New York  
(seedings in parentheses):

Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Nicolas Baslaevskiy, Georgia, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2  
Dominic Thiem (9), Austria, def. Kevin Anderson (5), South Africa, 7-5, 6-2, 7-6 (2)  
Juan Martin del Potro (3), Argentina, def. Borna Coric (20), Croatia, 6-4, 6-3, 6-1

John Isner (11), United States, def. Milos Raonic (25), Canada, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2

## Women's Singles

## Fourth Round

Serena Williams, United States, def. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3  
Karolina Pliskova (8), Czech Republic, def. Ashleigh Barty (18), Australia, 6-4, 6-4

Sloane Stephens (3), United States, def. Elise Mertens (12), Belgium, 6-3, 6-2  
Anastasija Sevastova (19), Latvia, def. Elim Svitolina (7), Ukraine, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4

## Third Round

Austin Krajcik, United States, and Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. Jorgen Melzer, Austria and Nikita Mekhtic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-4

Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Marcelo Melo (7), Brazil, def. Nicolas Mahut, France and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (9), France, 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 (5)

Malek Jaziri, Tunisia, and Radu Albot, Moldova, def. Ryan Harrison, United States, and Michael Venus, Canada, 6-2, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4

## Women's Doubles

## Third Round

Barbora Krejčíková, Czech Republic, and Katerina Siniaková, Slovakia, def. Laura Siegemund, Germany, and Lyudmyla Kichenok, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-2

Francesca Schiavone and Tatjana Jakupović, Slovenia, def. Oksana Kalashnikova, Georgia and Nao Hibino, Japan, 6-3, 6-3

Samantha Stosur, Australia and Shuai Zhang, China, def. Vera Zvonareva, Russia, and Timea Babos, Hungary, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-3

Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Timea Babos (2), Hungary, def. Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany and Raquel Atawo (14), United States, 6-3, 6-4

## Second Round

Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France and Andre Sestini-Hlavacek (5), Czech Republic, def. Rajeev Ram, United States and Ketevan Petashvili, Georgia, 6-4, 6-4

Nadila Kichenok, Ukraine and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Belarus, def. Daniel Nestor, Canada and Leander Paes (4), Taiwan, walkovers

Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States and Jamie Murray, Great Britain, def. Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia and Abigail Spears, United States, 6-3, 6-4

Krystyna Pliskova, Czech Republic and Raluca Olaru, Romania, def. Michael Venus, New Zealand and Katarina Srebotnik (7), Slovenia, 4-6, 6-4, 6-14.

## Serena slams 18 aces in victory

BY HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Serena Williams' yell of "Come on!" crescendomed right along with the tension in a fourth-round U.S. Open match that began as a rout and suddenly became riveting.

When she ripped a backhand winner to claim the third set's opening game Sunday, Williams let out her loudest shout of the day, leaning forward and rocking both arms. This turned into a test, and she passed it.

Williams reached the quarterfinals at Flushing Meadows for a 10th consecutive appearance — she wasn't there last year because she gave birth to her daughter during the tournament — by picking her level up after a lull and using 18 aces to beat Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

"It was a 'Serena scream.' I don't try to do it. It just comes out, and it's just emotions," said Williams, a six-time U.S. Open champion who finished with more than twice as many winners as Kanepi, 18-22.

"This is my job and this is what I do. This is how I earn a living. I'm going to do it the best I can," she added. "Winning a big game and a very important game and a really tight game, I think it was just a relief."

This match was filled with big hitting by both women, along with an manner of shifts in momentum and quality of play. In the 18-minute shootout of the first set, Kanepi's strokes were off and Williams' were pretty much perfect as she grabbed 24 of 30 points.

But after compiling 14 winners and only two unforced errors in that set, Williams began making mistakes, becoming less and less comfortable as Kanepi grew increasingly so. Kanepi is ranked only 44th, but she's been a top-20 player in the past and has made it to Grand Slam quarterfinals a half-dozen times. Sure, that's nothing compared to Williams' 23 major titles, but it's something. Plus, it's worth remembering this: Kepi eliminated No. 1 Simona Halep on Day 1 of this tournament.

When Williams shanked a backhand return of a 103 mph serve, the match was a little more than an hour old, and it was all tied at a set apiece. That was the first set she had lost against Kanepi of the 10 they'd played to that

point, and the first set Williams had lost at the 2018 U.S. Open, a run that included a 6-1, 6-2 victory over her older sister Venus in the third round Friday night.

After that scream-inspiring hold to begin the final set, Williams broke right away to lead 2-0. She then faced a break point, but Kanepi saved that chance by sending a backhand wide. From there, Williams smacked an ace at 118 mph, followed by a service winner at 113 mph to go up 3-0, and that essentially was that.

Next for the 36-year-old American comes a quarterfinal against 2016 runner-up Karolina Pliskova, who beat Williams in the U.S. Open semifinals that year.

"I really was feeling great that year. I'm feeling great now, too. But it was a little bit different story, 2016. I was, like, a dark horse. Who was expecting me to get that far," Pliskova said after beating No. 18 Ashleigh Barty 6-4, 6-4.

The other quarterfinal on the top half of the draw will be defending champion Sloane Stephens of the U.S. against No. 19 Anastasia



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Serena Williams reacts after a point against Kaia Kanepi on Sunday in New York.

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Svetsova of Latvia in a rematch from the same round last year.

Stephens won that one by beating No. 15 Elise Mertens 6-3, 6-3 at night, while Svetsova defeated No. 7 Elina Svitolina 6-3, 1-6, 6-0.

American Madison Keys reached the quarterfinals by defeating Dominika Cibulkova 6-1, 6-3 on Monday.

Defending men's champion Rafael Nadal reached his fourth Grand Slam quarterfinal of the season and 36th of his career, by getting past Nikoloz Basilashvili 6-3, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-4, while No. 11 John Isner of the U.S. made it that far at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2011. Isner defeated No. 25 Miles Maclagan of Canada 6-3, 6-4, 6-3, 6-2 and now faces 2009 champion Juan Martin del Potro who pounded 18 forehand winners in a 6-4, 6-3, 6-1 victory over No. 20 Borna Coric and hasn't dropped a set through four matches.

Nadal will take on No. 9 Dominic Thiem for a semifinal berth in what will be rematch of this year's French Open final, which Nadal won in straight sets.

## SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 24

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Signed QB Matt LaFleur, from Tennessee, and LB Matt Milano, from Florida.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Claimed QB Luke Falk off waivers from Tennessee, and OT Matt Kalil off waivers from the New York Jets.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Claimed QB Matt Wile off waivers from Pittsburgh, Released P Ryan Quigley, Signed WR Jeff George, Signed S Mike Mitchell, Signed DT Curtis Cochran, LB Jordan Elliott, Signed S Mike Mitchell, DB Steven Parker, OG Luis Perez, DE Cameron Jones, Signed S Mike Patterson, LB Quentin Poling and DE Jonathan Woodard to the practice squad.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Signed CB Keenan Lewis, from the Cleveland Browns, and CB Mike Tomlin, from the Cincinnati Bengals.

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Signed CB Deon Grant, from the New England Patriots.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed S Mike Hart, from the New York Jets, and CB Darius Slay, from the Philadelphia Eagles.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Signed S Mike Adams, from the New England Patriots.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Claimed DE Mario Edwards, Jr. and DE Antonio Hamilton, from the New England Patriots.

CHICAGO BEARS — Signed S Mike Clay off waivers from Buffalo, CB Spencer Pulley off waivers from the Los Angeles Chargers, and DE Kyle Van Noy off waivers from Cleveland and DE Kamrin Moore off waivers from New Orleans. Terminated DE Mike Daniels, DE Kyle Arruda, DE Liam James, WR A.J. Green, WR Odell Beckham, TE Jeff Heuerman, WR Devin Smith, and WR Jake Luton.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed S Mike Adams, from the New England Patriots.

DETROIT LIONS — Suspended G Nate Solder 20 games for violating the NFL's performance-enhancing substances policy.

DETROIT LIONS — Signed S Mike Adams, from the New England Patriots.

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# MLB SCOREBOARD

• STARS AND STRIPES •

## American League

### East Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	Red Sox	94	44	.681	
New York	Yankees	86	51	.628	7½
Toronto	Blue Jays	82	54	.566	11½
Baltimore	Orioles	40	97	.292	53½

### Central Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	Indians	63	73	.566	14½
Minnesota	Twins	63	73	.566	14½
Chicago	White Sox	62	74	.556	15½
Detroit	Tigers	55	91	.331	32

### West Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	Astros	84	53	.613	
Oakland	Athletics	82	56	.496	2½
Seattle	M's	76	61	.534	1½
Los Angeles	Dodgers	66	71	.482	18
Texas	Rangers	60	77	.438	24

## National League

### East Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	Braves	95	45	.667	
Philadelphia	Phillies	72	64	.529	4
New York	Giants	68	69	.496	4½
New Miami	Mets	64	83	.394	22½

### Central Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	Cubs	97	61	.596	
Milwaukee	Brewers	76	61	.558	5½
St. Louis	Cardinals	76	61	.558	5½
Pittsburgh	Pirates	64	78	.431	22½

### West Division

	Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	Dodgers	74	62	.547	½
Colorado	Avalanche	74	62	.547	½
Arizona	Diamondbacks	68	69	.543	1½
San Francisco	Giants	58	85	.388	22

### Sunday Games

Detroit at Atlanta, 1 p.m.  
Boston at White Sox, 1 p.m.

Minnesota at Houston, 1 p.m.  
Kansas City at Baltimore, 1 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Cleveland, 1 p.m.

Houston at L.A. Angels, 1 p.m.

Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, 1 p.m.

St. Louis at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.

Chicago at Milwaukee, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Mets at L.A. Dodgers, 1 p.m.

San Diego at Arizona, 1 p.m.

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L.A. Angels (Heaney 8-8) at Texas (Miller, 10-11).

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Baltimore (Rutledge 7-11) at Houston (Verlander 13-9).

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Philadelphia (Arrieta 9-9) at Miami (Renfroe 10-11).

Chicago Cubs (Montgomery 4-4) at Milwaukee (Miley 2-2).

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## AUTO RACING



TERRY RENNA/AP

**Brad Keselowski celebrates in Victory Lane after winning Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C. Keselowski also won Saturday's Xfinity Series race at the track.**

## Keselowski sweeps in SC

Penske driver boosts confidence with success at Darlington

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

DARLINGTON, S.C. — Watch out Big Three, Team Penske is coming on strong.

Penske racers Brad Keselowski and Joey Logano finished first and second in the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway on Sunday night in a powerful performance that gives them confidence of being a factor in the upcoming playoffs in couple of weeks.

Keselowski swept both Darlington races after his Xfinity victory here Saturday. He used a fast pit stop and a quick, efficient restart to pull in front of leader Kyle Larson and bring Penske its first Darlington win since 1975.

Now, the two are looking for bigger things in a year dominated by past champions Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr.

"Yaaaaaa!" Logano said when asked about out-running the three here.

"The fact that we can keep up and race them and pass them, that felt good," Logano said. "That's been about a year since I passed one of those cars. So that feels really good."

Keselowski said it's been a frustrating year because the Penske cars haven't had the speed they've usually enjoyed. "When we've had the speed, I completely messed them up," he said.

Both races at Daytona this year and at Talladega, Keselowski felt his own mistakes cost the team

victories. To give up chances like that is difficult because you can't ever be sure, the 2012 NASCAR champion said, when you'll ever get a car strong enough to win again.

When you don't have the speed, Keselowski said, "you literally beat your head against the wall."

Keselowski now thinks a re-newed Team Penske might have something for the rest of the play-off field.

"I sure ain't complaining about the one-two finish," he said. "And I know no one at Penske is complaining."

Other things we saw at Darlington Raceway:

**Johnson's plight:** Many expected seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson to pull himself out of a season-long funk with a big showing at Darlington Raceway. Instead, Johnson and his team went the other way with a lost weekend of problems. He damaged the car after qualifying 20th that forced him to the back of the field for unapproved — yet necessary — changes. He had a loose wheel early and was penalized for a commitment line violation. The capper was a faulty oil pump that sent him behind the wall and out of the race. He's 14th in points, but has not yet clinched.

"If we can just start minimizing mistakes, my own included, we will be much better off and have a shot," Johnson said.

**Larson's style:** Kyle Larson chooses to see his weekend as very fast instead of a disappoint-

ing third. Larson led 284 laps and looked to have the race locked up after having won the first two stages and building a big, big lead during long green flag runs.

"Really happy with the car that we brought to the race track on Friday," he said. "I felt like from the first run on the track, I knew were going to have a pretty good weekend."

Larson is part of the 16-team playoffs and hopes his Darlington performance can fuel more success down the road.

**Big three?:** NASCAR's big three drivers in Kevin Harvick, Kyle Busch and Martin Truex Jr. with all mostly bit players at Darlington Raceway. Harvick ended fourth after starting 22nd, Kyle Busch was seventh while Martin Truex Jr. was 11th.

"It's really disappointing to have a car that good to be up front and have that many troubles on pit road," Truex said. "It's pretty disappointing. We have to clean it up. Playoffs are coming. We do that in the playoffs and we'll be out in the second round."

**Packed Darlington:** The old country track looked full and vibrant after its \$7 million makeover to widen and improve seating and aisles and other fan amenities. Weather delays cleared the grandstands twice and the race started about 45 minutes after its schedule. But the stands were packed throughout the night and officials were pleased with the turnout.

## Sato wins, Dixon keeps title in sight

By JENNA FRYER  
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Scott Dixon claimed to remember little about his last race at Portland International Raceway, a visit 16 years and four championships ago.

Should he win a fifth IndyCar title this season, his return to the Pacific Northwest will be one he never forgets.

Dixon salvaged his championship run Sunday with an improbable comeback that made the championship his to lose.

Dixon finished fifth, far behind race winner Takuma Sato, but put together the kind of drive that may define his season. He started 11th, was collected in an opening-lap crash, penalized for speeding on pit road and twice drove through the field from 20th. His Chip Ganassi Racing team was forced to change its strategy several times, and caution flags helped Dixon cycle ahead of the other championship contenders. He goes to the Sept. 16 season finale with a 29-point lead over Alexander Rossi.

"Huge day for the team, feels like a win for us," said Dixon. "The points, whatever it is, is not a huge amount."

Rossi had a decent race Sunday but was cycled out of the lead because of cautions. He finished eighth and lost three points to Dixon.

"It's one of those days. We had a fast car," Rossi said. "Our tire strategy was going to plan and everything was good until the yellow came on Lap 56. It hurts a lot, and hopefully, it's not something that costs us the championship."

Team Penske drivers Will Power and Josef Newgarden started on the front row and are the only other drivers mathematically eligible to win the championship. Newgarden, the defending series champion, finished 10th and is 87 points behind Dixon.

It was a terrible day for Power, the Indianapolis 500 winner. He had a mechanical problem eight laps into the race seemed to make his car stall as he pulled out of the way and conceded the lead to Rossi.

Power later went off course into a tire barrier and finished 21st. He's tied with Newgarden for third in the standings.

"I think on the warm-up lap before the green, something hap-

pened to the gearbox. It jumped to neutral, I went into emergency mode and made it go into gear," Power said. "I'm not sure the gearbox would have made it the whole race. It's a tough sport. Now, we just go to Sonoma, have fun and win."

"And hopefully, have a good day to the year."

Sato, meanwhile, used fuel strategy to win his third career IndyCar race and first since he won the Indianapolis 500 last season. The victory was his first with Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing.

Ryan Hunter-Reay nearly caught Sato over the final two laps but wound up second. Sébastien Bourdais, the last winner of an open-wheel race at Portland in 2007, was third.

Portland hosted 24 consecutive open-wheel events but none the last 11 years. The return of IndyCar was met by enthusiastic fans and a Pacific Northwest crowd starving for a look at major league racing. The fans got a show when the race began with a multi-car accident that sent Marco Andretti through the air, over two cars and upside down into the dirt.

It was the same crash that collected Dixon and should have ruined his race and perhaps his championship chances. Stuck in the dirt, he put his car in reverse and drove away with minimal damage. Then, his improbable finish has made the title his to lose.

"I couldn't see anything once I got off the in the dirt, it was just dust everywhere," Dixon said. "Then I kept getting hit and hit and thought, 'Oh, this isn't going to be good.'"

More from the Portland race: **Wickens update:** Sam Schmidt visited injured driver Robert Wickens in the hospital before traveling to Portland.

Schmidt, a quadriplegic since his own crash in 2000, waited until Wickens was transferred to Indianapolis earlier this week to visit the Canadian. Wickens suffered a spinal cord injury in an Aug. 19 crash at Pocono Raceway in Pennsylvania.

Schmidt said a positive attitude and strong support system will be critical in Wickens' recovery.

"He's determined, he's a fighter, very focused," Schmidt said.

Schmidt will return to Indianapolis to see Wickens again after Wickens undergoes surgery on his ankles later this week.

BEN LUDEMAN, THE OREGONIAN/AP  
Takuma Sato drives to victory during Sunday's IndyCar race in Portland, Ore.

# COLLEGE FOOTBALL



NATE HARNIK/AP

Fans dance to music during a lightning and rain delay in the first half of Nebraska's game against Akron on Saturday. The game might be made up if either team needs a victory to become bowl eligible.

## Weather has Nebraska, Iowa State scrambling

By ERIC OLSON  
Associated Press

With bowl eligibility potentially at stake for both schools later in the season, officials at Nebraska and Iowa State said Sunday they'll work to find opponents to fill out their schedules after their openers were canceled because of severe weather.

Nebraska and Iowa State were among several teams across the nation that contended with weather problems Saturday on the first full weekend of college football. The Akron-Nebraska and South Dakota State-Iowa State games were called off shortly after they started, and other games had lengthy delays.

A team needs to win six games to assure itself of bowl eligibility. Nebraska went 4-8 last season and hopes to rebound under new coach Scott Frost. Deputy athletic director Bob Burton said Nebraska would begin looking immediately for an opponent, whether it be from the Bowl Subdivision or second-tier Championship Subdivision. The Cornhuskers have an open date Oct. 27.

"I think we're going to consider everything," he said.

Akron athletic director Larry Williams, however, said the Zips and Nebraska are in talks to make up the game Dec. 1 if either team needs the game to become bowl eligible.

Players were pulled off the field at Memorial Stadium immediately after the opening kickoff because of lightning in the Lincoln area. The game was called off after a 2-hour, 40-minute delay.

"During the delay, there were numerous scenarios discussed for contingency plans for playing the game, including a scenario to play the game on Sunday," athletic director Bill Moos said in a statement. "Unfortunately, Akron faced some logistical challenges and the decision was made to cancel the game."

Williams said Akron tried to find lodging for the team within "a reasonable distance from Lincoln."

"These accommodations were not available or would have required our team to stay in multiple locations, which is not in the

best interests of our team and student-athletes," Williams said.

As for whether Akron would receive its \$1.17 million payout from Nebraska, Burton said, "I think that's to be determined."

"When Bill went to meet with Akron about a game on Sunday, he came back and said they did not want to play," Burton said.

Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard, who was unavailable for an interview, wrote in a letter to fans Sunday the Cyclones are trying to find an opponent to play either on its October open date or on Dec. 1, if at that time, it needs another win to achieve bowl eligibility. The Cyclones were 8-5 last season and have high hopes for this year.

Iowa State's game against South Dakota State was canceled shortly after it started because of storms in the Ames area. Pollard wrote there was no serious consideration given to playing the game Sunday because it would have required finding lodging or SDSU late Saturday night, thrown off preparations for the teams' games this week, and the Sunday forecast called for more stormy weather.

South Dakota State is unavailable during Iowa State's Oct. 20 open date and hopes to be participating in the FCS playoffs on Dec. 1, which is also the same date as the Big 12 championship game. ISU officials said South Dakota received its payout of \$425,000.

"We began working late last night to identify other opponents we could play during our bye week or during championship week," Pollard wrote, adding that a prospective opponent would have to be available on one of those dates and also be eligible, either by having had a game canceled or having not scheduled a full slate of games.

"Needless to say it will be difficult to find an opponent that meets those requirements and is interested in coming to Ames," Pollard wrote.

If the Cyclones achieve six wins by November, he said, a 12th regular-season game would need to be.

Burton demurred when asked if it would be possible for Nebraska to play Iowa State.

# LSU off and running in rout of No. 8 Miami

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — Nick Brossette and Joe Burrow waited a long time for their chance to be impact players. They helped No. 25 LSU make a strong opening statement.

Brossette ran for 125 yards with his first two career touchdowns and grad transfer quarterback Burrow, who appeared in 10 games the past two seasons at Ohio State, won his first college start as the Tigers beat No. 8 Miami 33-17 on Sunday night.

"I knew I needed to be patient and humble, and that my time would come," said Brossette, who had only 96 yards rushing all last season for the Tigers as a third-string junior.

Once the game started, the Hurricanes never really backed the bravado they showed in a feisty exchange of words and some shoving between the teams during warmups about 75 minutes before kickoff.

LSU led 27-3 by halftime after Jacob Phillips returned an interception 45 yards for a touchdown.

"Regardless of what's out there and what people say, we believe in each other in that room, and we proved it tonight," Tigers coach Ed Orgeron said about the perception that his team was the underdog.

Miami, which has lost four games in a row since a 10-0 start last season, never got to celebrate with that gaudy turnover chain that comes out when the Hurricanes get a takeaway.

"We certainly had some things go well and some things not well," said Miami coach Mark Richt, in his third season at his alma mater. "A lot of self-inflicted wounds, not to take anything away from what LSU did. They beat us soundly."

LSU went ahead to stay in the final minute of the first quarter after Burrow changed a play at the line of scrimmage. Brossette then took an inside handoff and went untouched down the middle of the field for a 50-yard TD run that snapped a 3-3 tie.

"I saw the goal line," Brossette said. "It opened up, which shocked me. I put my head down and ran."

Burrow finished 11 of 24 for 140 yards, and Orgeron said the quarterback did a great job "just managing the game," remaining cool under pressure and making adjustments when necessary.

"Execute, do what the game plan says," Burrow said. "Really all that was on my mind was going out and playing with my brothers and executing at a high level."

Brossette's 1-yard run made it 17-3 on an 11-play drive when LSU twice converted fourth-and-1 — on a 2-yard gain by Brossette near midfield, and when Miami jumped offside.



RON JENKINS/AP

**LSU running back Nick Brossette carries the ball inside the 10-yard line before being tackled by Miami defensive back Jaquan Johnson on Sunday. Brossette ran for 125 yards and two touchdowns.**

"We saw it in camp, I thought he was our most physical back," Orgeron said.

Cole Tracy, a kicker last season at Division II Assumption College, made four field goals in his Tigers debut. His 54-yarder, which tied a school record, just skimmed over the crossbar and made it 33-3 late in the third quarter.

When LSU fumbled on its opening drive, receiver Dee Anderson managed to recover after taking a shot to the head and losing the ball briefly at the end of an 11-yard catch for a first down.

The Hurricanes instead lost starting cornerback Trajan Bande when he was ejected for targeting.

The Hurricanes thought they had a fumble return for a touchdown later in the first quarter, but a replay review determined it was an incomplete pass by Burrow.

## The takeaway

Miami's Malik Rosier had a record-setting season last year with his 31 touchdowhns (26 passing, five rushing) and 3,588 total yards, but had some of the same issues that plagued him late. Rosier was 15-for-35 for 259 yards with two interceptions against LSU.

The Hurricanes were down 33-3 before his 3-yard TD keeper and 32-yard TD pass to Brian Hightower in the fourth quarter. In the

losing streak to end last season, he had three total TDs (all passing) with five interceptions.

"The whole game was a huge learning experience for us," Rosier said. "They did some stuff that we weren't prepared for. That's why I had so many scrambles and stuff."

**LSU:** The Tigers had three other division foes from the brutal SEC West ranked ahead of them in the preseason Top 25. They have one more game before an early opportunity to show if they are for real. They play at No. 9 Auburn in two weeks.

## Impressive catches

Jeff Thomas led Miami with five catches for 132 yards, including an impressive 1-handed grab along the sideline on a first-quarter drive that led to a Hurricanes field goal. Thomas had another highlight play in the third quarter, when he went high in the air to make a two-handed catch in front of defenders along the sideline.

## At home in Jerryworld

LSU is 4-0 at AT&T Stadium, the home of the NFL's Dallas Cowboys. All of those wins have been against Top 25 opponents, in three season openers and the Cotton Bowl over Texas A&M.

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

# Gruden explains Raiders' decision to trade Mack

Oakland coach says team, player 'could not come to terms'

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Jon Gruden didn't mince words.

As excited as he was to coach Khalil Mack in his second stint with Oakland, Gruden believes the right move ultimately was to trade Mack to give the Raiders the draft picks and salary cap room needed to rebuild a depleted roster.

"It wasn't my goal to trade Khalil when we got here," Gruden said Sunday. "One of the reasons I'm here is because of him. Unfortunately, we had a standoff with a contract, and we could not come to terms. The Bears made us an offer of two first-round draft choices and here we are today."

The Raiders made the blockbuster trade on Saturday, dealing one of the game's most dominant defensive players to Chicago for first-round draft picks in 2019 and 2020, a sixth-rounder next year and a third-rounder in 2020. Oakland also included its second-round selection in 2020 and a conditional fifth-rounder that year in the trade.

Mack then immediately signed a six-year, \$141 million extension with the Bears that guarantees \$90 million. That's the richest deal ever for a defensive player and nowhere near where the Raiders were willing to go after already committing \$25

million a year to quarterback Derek Carr.

"It's tough when you have two players that are the highest paid at their positions, so the economic part of it certainly weighs in," Gruden said. "We've got free agents on our team that are going to be (up) next year; we've got to find a way to bring them back. So you've got to field a 53-man roster and there are some implications of having two players making that much money."

The Bears were willing to commit that money in part because they have quarterback Mitchell Trubisky on a rookie deal. The Los Angeles Rams gave \$87 million guaranteed to Aaron Donald this past week in the richest defensive contract until Mack's surpassed it, but they also have quarterback Jared Goff on a rookie deal.

The Raiders don't have that luxury and have several holes to fill on a team that went 6-10 last year and has gotten little production from recent draft classes. Oakland has already cut ties with its second-round picks from 2015, '16 and '17 in Mario Edwards Jr., Jihad Ward and Obi Melifonwu and has only 11 of the 50 draft choices made from 2012-17 on the 53-man roster.

That has contributed to the Raiders having the oldest roster in the league and the desire for more draft picks.

"We're trying to hit on the draft," Gruden said.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

**Oakland Raiders head coach Jon Gruden defended the team's decision to trade All-Pro linebacker Khalil Mack to the Chicago Bears on Sunday, saying the move, while painful, was necessary to get the draft picks and salary cap room needed to rebuild.**

# Helmet: Not everyone pleased with NFL's latest rules change

## FROM BACK PAGE

Here's where things stand from a variety of constituencies as we head toward the kickoff of the 2018 schedule:

### The League

NFL executives were encouraged that the flags thrown for helmet-initiated hits dropped from S1 through the opening two weeks of the preseason to nine for Week 3 — when many regulars got on the field, though in a limited capacity. Officials have been instructed not to flag incidental or inadvertent contacts with the helmet or facemask by defensive or offensive players. The deeper we get into games that count, the better those with the whistle or ball in their hands or the guys attempting tackles will have a handle on what's legal.

"These are necessary changes where the rules come in," says Troy Vincent, the NFL's football operations chief and a defensive back from 1992-2006. "As we're for the long term, the well-being of the players comes first."

Adds Giants owner John Mara, a long-time member of the competition committee that advises rules changes for teams to vote on:

"I think officials and players will adapt to the rule, that is what happens every time we have a change based on player safety. There's an outcry at the beginning that it will change the game, and it never works out that way; statistics don't bear that out at all."

### The officials

The rule change has placed the men in stripes in even sharper focus. Simply put, at the current speed of play and with the size and power of players, any call is difficult. Now, a bit more judgment has been added, with decisions made in split seconds.

"It's still a work in progress because officials need to learn to instinctively read and react to this type of hit that they've never looked at before as a foul," says recently retired referee Terry McAulay, now an analyst for NBC. "So there is going to be some learning curve yet to come, but I think they're in a much better place than they were a week ago."

One somewhat puzzling question remains: Why isn't video replay used when some of these calls, especially if they lead to ejections, can be game changers?

Well, it actually is, on a limited basis. Should a player be ejected for initiating helmet contact, Al Riverton and his staff at New York headquarters can affirm or overrule the ejection.

"Our charge is, No. 1 player safety. Make it safer in all ways," Riverton says. "No. 2, make sure we still have a product that is entertaining. And No. 3, find a happy balance with replay and how much it gets involved. We always stop the game to get it right."

Mara believes replay could play a further role if officiating the rules becomes too problematic."

### The doctors and researchers

Thousands of hours and millions of dollars of data gathering, research, technological innovations and testing helped lead to the new rule. Every penny will have been spent if usage of the helmet as a weapon disappears.

"It's an offshoot of all that work," says Jeff Miller, the league's executive vice president of health and safety initiatives, whose department works with medical professionals, researchers and equipment manufacturers. "An identification of what causes concussions and why there was a troubling increase in them."

"We see patterns, the increased velocity of the hits, the positioning of the head and neck ... that increases in force and magnitude of a hit, and not just with the crown of the helmet."

Dr. Allen Sills, the NFL's medical director, believes all the data helped construct a comprehensive story that required immediate action.

"Everything we saw said we must act on this," Sills says of the injury rate for helmet-first hits. "There was a sense of urgency when the data was so compelling to do something now on this."

### The coaches

For decades, the head was taught to be part of the tackling process. That has changed 180 degrees — at least in the NFL — as the consequences of that tech-

nique became so clearly grim and far-reaching.

NFL coaches are the elite of the profession. Still, changing a culture that was part of football for so long, and might still be at lower levels of the sport, is challenging.

Throw in that some coaches were caught by surprise by the wide-ranging change, and others aren't truly certain when flags will fly, and there's concern on every NFL sideline.

New Titans coach Mike Vrabel, a Super Bowl-winning linebacker, narrated a league-distributed video on tackles that are kosher and which are outlawed. Yet his team was among the most penalized early in the preseason.

"It's frustrating because I'm not doing a good enough job explaining to them what they're calling," Vrabel said during training camp. "I think they look at me like I'm nuts when I say, 'This is what they're looking for. This is what they're calling.'

"We just really have to start watching. The helmet thing extends drives. Penalties are going to lead to scoring opportunities; 15 yards is an explosive gain ... To continue to give them the 15-yard penalties is frustrating because I have to do a better job of making sure these guys aren't using the top of the helmet."

Another worry among coaches is whether the calls will be equitable for offensive players and defenders. Former Cardinals coach Bruce Arians, now a CBS analyst, said he recalls three times when the defense was called for hel-

met-first hits when it was obvious to him that the runner initiated the contact.

"It's agreeable," he says. "They just have to not over-officiate it. They shouldn't use the posture of getting in a protective position by the running back before he gets tackled, yet he's the one making contact with the helmet."

### The players

Ultimately, as anyone involved in any sport will say, the players have to make the plays. And make sure they are permissible plays.

It's not going to be easy at first. According to 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman, it won't be easy ever.

Or fair.

"It's an idiotic rule, so there's no need to go down that road," Sherman says. "There's no way you can tackle and play football. I could tackle like that if I was standing still, got on my knees, no one was moving and I was tackling bags or something. But to ask you to do that at full speed?"

Adds Texans safety Tyrann Mathieu: "It's going to be extremely difficult. Obviously, guys are trying to take the initiative to really go about it the right way, but sometimes it's like, what do you expect a guy to do? Hopefully, we'll get it corrected and like I said, hopefully it doesn't take too much money from the guys."

"I just don't know when it's a foul, when it's clean. I have no idea."

## NFL

# Broncos cut QB Lynch

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — John Elway cut ties with his biggest draft bust Sunday when he waived quarterback Paxton Lynch less than 24 hours after including him on the Denver Broncos' 53-man roster.

In another move, the Broncos placed safety Su'a Cravens on IR with an injured left knee and re-signed Isaiah McKenzie, the speedy returner/receiver who was among the team's cuts a day earlier.

Lynch was jettisoned after the Broncos were awarded fellow third-year quarterback Kevin Hogan off waivers from Washington.

Elway said he and coach Vance Joseph "met with Paxton this morning and informed him that it's best for everyone to make this move. We appreciate all of Paxton's hard work as a Bronco, and we wish him well in the future."

Elway once viewed the athletic but raw Lynch as a future franchise quarterback, moving up in the 2016 NFL Draft to select the University of Memphis star with the 26th overall pick in the first round.

That move came in the shadows of Denver's Super Bowl 50 win and shortly after Peyton Manning's retirement and Brock Osweiler's departure.

Elway acknowledged at the time that Lynch was a project who needed some seasoning but he expressed hope that Lynch might be a quick study.

He wasn't.

Twice, seven-round Trevor Siemian handily beat out Lynch in protracted competitions for the starting QB job.

When Case Keenum was signed in March, Elway sent Siemian to the Minnesota Vikings, clearing the way for Lynch to serve as the No. 2 quarterback. All he had to do was fend off Chad Kelly, another seventh-round.

He couldn't.

Kelly had a terrific offseason while Lynch regressed this summer before completing 14 of 15 passes against third-stringers in the Broncos' fourth preseason game last week at Arizona.

Lynch made the team as the third quarterback, but Elway indicated his survival on cutdown day was more a function of Kelly's inexperience after spending his rookie season on IR last year.

"With Chad not having a lot of experience and not having played in a regular season game before, we thought that he had to go



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

**Quarterback Paxton Lynch takes part in drills at Broncos training camp in Englewood, Colo., last month. John Elway cut ties with his biggest draft bust Sunday when he waived Lynch less than 24 hours after including him on Denver's 53-man roster.**

with three quarterbacks," Elway said, "and Paxton was our third."

Less than 24 hours later, Elway found a better option.

Hogan and Lynch were both part of the 2016 draft class.

Lynch was the third QB selected overall, after Jared Goff and Carson Wentz. Hogan was the 14th QB taken, by Kansas City with the 162nd overall pick in the fifth round, after setting several records at Stanford, including most career wins by a QB (36) and most rushing yards by a QB (1,249).

Both have made spot appearances in the NFL.

Lynch has played in five games with four starts, going 1-3 with four TDs and four interceptions.

In eight games, including one start, for the Cleveland Browns over the last two seasons, Hogan threw for four TDs with seven interceptions. He also has rushed for 176 yards and a touchdown in 18 attempts, a

9.8-yard average.

He was traded to Washington on April 6 and was waived by the Redskins on Saturday.

Elway and Joseph had held out hope that Lynch was just a late-bloomer, continuing to express their belief in him even as fans had soured on him.

After bypassing the deep quarterback class in this year's draft, Elway said he still thought Lynch could be a starting NFL quarterback, insisting, "We are not kicking him to the curb."

That thinking changed Sunday.

Cravens will miss at least half the season now that he's on IR. He missed most of training camp and the first three preseason games with soreness in his left knee, the same one he had surgery on last year to repair a torn meniscus while he was with Washington.

The Broncos acquired him in a trade this spring.

## Foles to start; Wentz not cleared for contact

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Eagles coach Doug Pederson said Nick Foles will start at quarterback against Atlanta on Thursday.

Pederson made the announcement on Monday, one day after a testy exchange with reporters in which he insisted he wanted to wait.

"In the best interest of everything about the football team and this decision, Nick Foles is the starter Week 1," said Pederson, who wasn't scheduled to speak to the media and plans to answer questions at his regular news conference on Tuesday.

Wentz still hasn't been medically cleared for contact as he comes back from surgery last December to repair two torn ligaments in his left knee. Foles was the Super Bowl MVP in Philadelphia's 41-33 win over New England.

Pederson isn't concerned about players being rusty.

"They've practiced," he said. "They've been in our practices. Practices are a lot tougher sometimes than games are."



MATT ROURKE/AP

Eagles quarterback Carson Wentz looks to pass during practice Aug. 21 at the team's facility in Philadelphia.

# Bills pick Peterman as starter

BY JOHN WAWROW

Associated Press

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Nathan Peterman will be the Buffalo Bills starting quarterback, a job the second-year player is expected to hold until first-round pick Josh Allen is deemed ready.

The Bills made the announcement on their Twitter account before practice Monday morning as the team prepares for its season opener at Baltimore on Sunday.

"Nate has earned the right," coach Sean McDermott said, noting he based his evaluation on how Peterman has performed and handled himself since the spring. "I've been impressed with his mental toughness, his command of the offense and the way he's generated yards and point in the preseason."

Peterman put up the best passing numbers during the preseason, 33 of 41 for 432 yards with three touchdowns and an interception in two preseason games last month. He was involved in a three-way quarterback competition that was cut to two Saturday when free-agent addition AJ McCarron was traded to Oakland.

The decision to start Peterman is an indication Allen needs more time to develop after an inconsistent preseason.

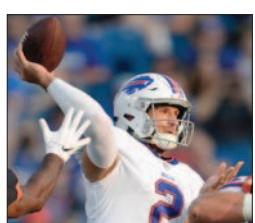
In three appearances, he went 24 of 44 for 210 yards and two touchdowns. The 22-year-old struggled in a 26-13 loss to Cincinnati on Aug. 26 in his only preseason start.

Buffalo traded up five spots in the draft to select Allen with the seventh pick.

Peterman is a fifth-round draft pick out of Pittsburgh, and is best remembered for throwing five interceptions in the first half of his first start in a 54-24 loss at the Los Angeles Chargers on Nov. 19. He finished 24 of 49 for 252 yards with two touchdowns and five interceptions in four appearances, including two starts.

Peterman will get an opportunity to face the Chargers again on Sept. 16, when Buffalo hosts Los Angeles.

The Bills are starting over at what's been an unsettled position since Hall of Famer Jim Kelly retired after the 1996 season. Peterman will become the 11th quarterback to start a season, including Matt Cassel, who took the first snap in 2015.



ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

The Bills announced Monday on Twitter that Nathan Peterman will be the team's starting quarterback.

# SPORTS



**Off and running**

No. 25 LSU opens season with win over No. 8 Miami » Page 29

NFL



The Falcons' Keanu Neal, right, and Brooks Reed tackle Kansas City Chiefs running back Kareem Hunt during a preseason game in Atlanta. Neal was penalised for lowering his head to initiate contact on the play.

CURTIS COMPTON/AP

## New helmet-hits rule causing concern heading into season

By BARRY WILNER  
Associated Press

**T**he NFL's revision of the catch rule figured to grab the spotlight this season.

Then the league altered the regulations on using the helmet when making contact on both sides of the ball, basically mak-

ing it a 15-yard penalty no matter where on the helmet strikes an opponent. Even players on offense and linemen in the trenches are subject to being flagged with potential fines and ejections for particularly flagrant hits by lowering the helmet.

Players are upset. Officials are deeper under the microscope. Fans are wondering why replay

review isn't part of the entire process.

Suddenly, the Dez Bryant and Jesse James non-catches are non-issues. It's all about the helmet hits, which unquestionably need to be removed from the game in a similar way that tacklers launching to make hits pretty much has been eliminated in the pros.

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**Serena hits 18 aces in fourth-round win** » US Open, Page 25



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